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(54) Title: REGULATION OF HUMAN TRANSMEMBRANE SERINE PROTEASE

(57) Abstract: Reagents which regulate human transmembrane serine protease activity and reagents which bind to human transmembrane serine protease gene products can be used to regulate extracellular matrix degradation. Such regulation is particularly useful for treating COPD, metastasis of malignant cells, tumor angiogenesis, inflammation, atherosclerosis, neurodegenerative diseases, and pathogenic infections.

REGULATION OF HUMAN TRANSMEMBRANE SERINE PROTEASE

TECHNICAL FIELD OF THE INVENTION

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The invention relates to the area of regulation human transmembrane serine protease activity to provide therapeutic effects.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

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Metastasizing cancer cells invade the extracellular matrix using plasma membrane protrusions that contact and dissolve the matrix with proteases. Agents which inhibit such protease activity can be used to suppress metastases. Proteases also are expressed during development, when degradation of the extracellular matrix is desired. In cases where appropriate extracellular matrix degradation does not occur, supplying a molecule with a protease activity can provide the necessary enzymatic activity. Thus, there is a need in the art for identifying new proteases and methods of regulating extracellular matrix degradation.

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SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

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It is an object of the invention to provide reagents and methods of regulating human transmembrane serine protease. These and other objects of the invention are provided by one or more of the embodiments described below.

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One embodiment of the invention is a transmembrane serine protease polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

amino acid sequences which are at least about 50% identical to the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 12; and

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the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 12;

Yet another embodiment of the invention is a method of screening for agents which
5 decrease extracellular matrix degradation. A test compound is contacted with a
transmembrane serine protease polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence
selected from the group consisting of:

amino acid sequences which are at least about 50% identical to the amino acid
10 sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 12; and

the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 12;

Binding between the test compound and the transmembrane serine protease
15 polypeptide is detected. A test compound which binds to the transmembrane serine
protease polypeptide is thereby identified as a potential agent for decreasing
extracellular matrix degradation. The agent can work by decreasing the activity of the
transmembrane serine protease.

20 Another embodiment of the invention is a method of screening for agents which
decrease extracellular matrix degradation. A test compound is contacted with a
polynucleotide encoding a transmembrane serine protease polypeptide, wherein the
polynucleotide comprises a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting
of:

25 nucleotide sequences which are at least 50% identical to the nucleotide sequence
shown in SEQ ID NO:11; and

the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:11.

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Binding of the test compound to the polynucleotide is detected. A test compound which binds to the polynucleotide is identified as a potential agent for decreasing extracellular matrix degradation. The agent can work by decreasing the amount of the transmembrane serine protease through interacting with the transmembrane serine protease mRNA.

Another embodiment of the invention is a method of screening for agents which regulate extracellular matrix degradation. A test compound is contacted with a transmembrane serine protease polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

amino acid sequences which are at least about 50% identical to the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 12; and

the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 12;

A transmembrane serine protease activity of the polypeptide is detected. A test compound which increases transmembrane serine protease activity of the polypeptide relative to transmembrane serine protease activity in the absence of the test compound is thereby identified as a potential agent for increasing extracellular matrix degradation. A test compound which decreases transmembrane serine protease activity of the polypeptide relative to transmembrane serine protease activity in the absence of the test compound is thereby identified as a potential agent for decreasing extracellular matrix degradation.

Even another embodiment of the invention is a method of screening for agents which decrease extracellular matrix degradation. A test compound is contacted with a transmembrane serine protease product of a polynucleotide which comprises a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

nucleotide sequences which are at least about 50% identical to the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:11; and

the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:11.

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Binding of the test compound to the transmembrane serine protease product is detected. A test compound which binds to the transmembrane serine protease product is thereby identified as a potential agent for decreasing extracellular matrix degradation.

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Still another embodiment of the invention is a method of reducing extracellular matrix degradation. A cell is contacted with a reagent which specifically binds to a polynucleotide encoding a transmembrane serine protease polypeptide or the product encoded by the polynucleotide, wherein the polynucleotide comprises a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

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nucleotide sequences which are at least about 50% identical to the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:11; and

20 the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:11.

Transmembrane serine protease activity in the cell is thereby decreased.

The invention thus provides reagents and methods for regulating human transmembrane serine protease activity which can be used *inter alia*, to treat COPD, metastasis of malignant cells, tumor angiogenesis, inflammation, atherosclerosis, neurodegenerative diseases, and pathogenic infections.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1. Alignment of human transmembrane serine protease as shown in SEQ ID
NO:12 with the protein identified by SwissProt Accession No. O15393 (SEQ ID
5 NO:14).

FIG. 2. Prosite search results.

FIG. 3. BLOCKS search results.
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FIG. 4. Relative expression of human transmembrane serine protease in respiratory
cells and tissues.

FIG. 5. Relative expression of human transmembrane serine protease in various
15 human tissues and the neutrophil-like cell line HL60.

FIG. 6. Northern blot showing expression of human transmembrane serine protease.

FIG. 7. Relative expression of human transmembrane serine protease in various
20 tissues.

FIG. 8. Fold change in expression of human transmembrane serine protease in
various cancer cells.

25 **DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION**

The invention relates to an isolated polynucleotide encoding a transmembrane serine
protease polypeptide and being selected from the group consisting of:

- 6 -

- a) a polynucleotide encoding a transmembrane serine protease polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:
- amino acid sequences which are at least about 50% identical to
- 5 the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 12;
the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:12;
- b) a polynucleotide comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO:11;
- 10 c) a polynucleotide which hybridizes under stringent conditions to a polynucleotide specified in (a) and (b);
- d) a polynucleotide the sequence of which deviates from the polynucleotide sequences specified in (a) to (c) due to the degeneration of the genetic code;
- 15 and
- e) a polynucleotide which represents a fragment, derivative or allelic variation of a polynucleotide sequence specified in (a) to (d).
- 20 Furthermore, it has been discovered by the present applicant that regulators of a transmembrane serine protease, particularly a human transmembrane serine protease, can be used to regulate degradation of the extracellular matrix. Human transmembrane serine protease as shown in SEQ ID NO:12 is 38 % identical over a 370 amino acid overlap to the protein identified by SwissProt Accession No. O15393
- 25 (SEQ ID NO:14) and annotated as a transmembrane serine protease 2 (FIG. 1). Related ESTs (SEQ ID NOS:1-8) are expressed in placenta, breast, colon, and ovarian tumor. The results of Prosite and BLOCKS searches are shown in FIGS. 2 and 3, respectively. Human transmembrane serine protease is therefore expected to be useful for the same purposes as previously identified serine proteases.

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Polypeptides

Transmembrane serine protease polypeptides according to the invention comprise at least 10, 15, 25, 50, 75, 100, 125, 150, 175, 200, 225, 250, 275, 300, 350, 400, or 410 contiguous amino acids selected from SEQ ID NO:12 or from a biologically active variant thereof, as defined below. An transmembrane serine protease polypeptide of the invention therefore can be a portion of an transmembrane serine protease molecule, a full-length transmembrane serine protease molecule, or a fusion protein comprising all or a portion of an transmembrane serine protease molecule.

10 Biologically Active Variants

Transmembrane serine protease variants which are biologically active, *i.e.*, retain an transmembrane serine protease activity, also are transmembrane serine protease polypeptides. Preferably, naturally or non-naturally occurring transmembrane serine protease variants have amino acid sequences which are at least about 50, preferably about 75, 90, 96, or 98% identical to an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 12. Percent identity between a putative transmembrane serine protease variant and an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:12 is determined using the Blast2 alignment program (Blosum62, Expect 10, standard genetic codes).

20 Variations in percent identity can be due, for example, to amino acid substitutions, insertions, or deletions. Amino acid substitutions are defined as one for one amino acid replacements. They are conservative in nature when the substituted amino acid has similar structural and/or chemical properties. Examples of conservative replacements are substitution of a leucine with an isoleucine or valine, an aspartate with a glutamate, or a threonine with a serine.

Amino acid insertions or deletions are changes to or within an amino acid sequence. They typically fall in the range of about 1 to 5 amino acids. Guidance in determining which amino acid residues can be substituted, inserted, or deleted without abolishing biological or immunological activity can be found using computer programs well

known in the art, such as DNASTAR software. Whether an amino acid change results in a biologically active transmembrane serine protease polypeptide can readily be determined by assaying for fibronectin binding or for transmembrane serine protease activity, as is known in the art and described, for example, in Example 2.

5

Fusion Proteins

Fusion proteins are useful for generating antibodies against transmembrane serine protease amino acid sequences and for use in various assay systems. For example, fusion proteins can be used to identify proteins which interact with portions of an
10 transmembrane serine protease polypeptide, including its active site and fibronectin domains. Methods such as protein affinity chromatography or library-based assays for protein-protein interactions, such as the yeast two-hybrid or phage display systems, can be used for this purpose. Such methods are well known in the art and also can be used as drug screens.

15

An transmembrane serine protease fusion protein comprises two protein segments fused together by means of a peptide bond. For example, the first protein segment can comprise at least 10, 15, 25, 50, 75, 100, 125, 150, 175, 200, 225, 250, 275, 300, 350, 400, or 410 contiguous amino acids selected from SEQ ID NO:12 or a
20 biologically active variant thereof. Preferably, a fusion protein comprises the active site of the protease, one or both of the trypsin_ser or trypsin_his domains, or one or more of the functional domains identified in FIGS. 1-3. The first protein segment also can comprise full-length transmembrane serine protease.

25 The second protein segment can be a full-length protein or a protein fragment or polypeptide. Proteins commonly used in fusion protein construction include β -galactosidase, β -glucuronidase, green fluorescent protein (GFP), autofluorescent proteins, including blue fluorescent protein (BFP), glutathione-S-transferase (GST), luciferase, horseradish peroxidase (HRP), and chloramphenicol acetyltransferase
30 (CAT). Additionally, epitope tags are used in fusion protein constructions, including

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- histidine (His) tags, FLAG tags, influenza hemagglutinin (HA) tags, Myc tags, VSV-G tags, and thioredoxin (Trx) tags. Other fusion constructions can include maltose binding protein (MBP), S-tag, Lex a DNA binding domain (DBD) fusions, GAL4 DNA binding domain fusions, and herpes simplex virus (HSV) BP16 protein fusions.
- 5 A fusion protein also can be engineered to contain a cleavage site located between the transmembrane serine protease polypeptide-encoding sequence and the heterologous protein sequence, so that the transmembrane serine protease polypeptide can be cleaved and purified away from the heterologous moiety.
- 10 A fusion protein can be synthesized chemically, as is known in the art. Preferably, a fusion protein is produced by covalently linking two protein segments or by standard procedures in the art of molecular biology. Recombinant DNA methods can be used to prepare fusion proteins, for example, by making a DNA construct which comprises transmembrane serine protease coding sequences disclosed herein in
- 15 proper reading frame with nucleotides encoding the second protein segment and expressing the DNA construct in a host cell, as is known in the art. Many kits for constructing fusion proteins are available from companies such as Promega Corporation (Madison, WI), Stratagene (La Jolla, CA), CLONTECH (Mountain View, CA), Santa Cruz Biotechnology (Santa Cruz, CA), MBL International
- 20 Corporation (MIC; Watertown, MA), and Quantum Biotechnologies (Montreal, Canada; 1-888-DNA-KITS).

Identification of Species Homologs

- Species homologs of human transmembrane serine protease can be obtained using
- 25 transmembrane serine protease polynucleotides (described below) to make suitable probes or primers to screening cDNA expression libraries from other species, such as mice, monkeys, or yeast, identifying cDNAs which encode homologs of transmembrane serine protease, and expressing the cDNAs as is known in the art.

Polynucleotides

An transmembrane serine protease polynucleotide can be single- or double-stranded and comprises a coding sequence or the complement of a coding sequence for an
5 transmembrane serine protease polypeptide. A coding sequence for the transmembrane serine protease of SEQ ID NO:12 is shown in SEQ ID NO:11.

Degenerate nucleotide sequences encoding human transmembrane serine protease polypeptides, as well as homologous nucleotide sequences which are at least about
10 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, preferably about 75, 90, 96, or 98% identical to the transmembrane serine protease coding sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:11 also are transmembrane serine protease polynucleotides. Percent sequence identity between the sequences of two polynucleotides is determined using computer programs such as ALIGN which employ the FASTA algorithm, using an affine gap search with a gap
15 open penalty of -12 and a gap extension penalty of -2. Complementary DNA (cDNA) molecules, species homologs, and variants of transmembrane serine protease polynucleotides which encode biologically active transmembrane serine protease polypeptides also are transmembrane serine protease polynucleotides.

20 Identification of Variants and Homologs

Variants and homologs of the transmembrane serine protease polynucleotides disclosed above also are transmembrane serine protease polynucleotides. Typically, homologous transmembrane serine protease polynucleotide sequences can be identified by hybridization of candidate polynucleotides to known transmembrane
25 serine protease polynucleotides under stringent conditions, as is known in the art. For example, using the following wash conditions--2X SSC (0.3 M NaCl, 0.03 M sodium citrate, pH 7.0), 0.1% SDS, room temperature twice, 30 minutes each; then 2X SSC, 0.1% SDS, 50 °C once, 30 minutes; then 2X SSC, room temperature twice, 10 minutes each--homologous sequences can be identified which contain at most
30 about 25-30%--basepair mismatches. More preferably, homologous nucleic acid

strands contain 15-25% basepair mismatches, even more preferably 5-15% basepair mismatches.

Species homologs of the transmembrane serine protease polynucleotides disclosed
5 herein can be identified by making suitable probes or primers and screening cDNA
expression libraries from other species, such as mice, monkeys, or yeast. Human
variants of transmembrane serine protease polynucleotides can be identified, for
example, by screening human cDNA expression libraries. It is well known that the
10 T_m of a double-stranded DNA decreases by 1-1.5 °C with every 1% decrease in
homology (Bonner *et al.*, *J. Mol. Biol.* 81, 123 (1973). Variants of human
transmembrane serine protease polynucleotides or transmembrane serine protease
polynucleotides of other species can therefore be identified, for example, by
hybridizing a putative homologous transmembrane serine protease polynucleotide
15 with a polynucleotide having a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:11 to form a test
hybrid. The melting temperature of the test hybrid is compared with the melting
temperature of a hybrid comprising transmembrane serine protease polynucleotides
having perfectly complementary nucleotide sequences, and the number or percent of
basepair mismatches within the test hybrid is calculated.

20 Nucleotide sequences which hybridize to transmembrane serine protease
polynucleotides or their complements following stringent hybridization and/or wash
conditions are also transmembrane serine protease polynucleotides. Stringent wash
conditions are well known and understood in the art and are disclosed, for example,
in Sambrook *et al.*, MOLECULAR CLONING: A LABORATORY MANUAL, 2d ed., 1989, at
25 pages 9.50-9.51.

Typically, for stringent hybridization conditions a combination of temperature and
salt concentration should be chosen that is approximately 12-20 °C below the
calculated T_m of the hybrid under study. The T_m of a hybrid between an
30 transmembrane serine protease polynucleotide having a coding sequence disclosed

herein and a polynucleotide sequence which is at least about 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, preferably about 75, 90, 96, or 98% identical to that nucleotide sequence can be calculated, for example, using the equation of Bolton and McCarthy, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* 48, 1390 (1962):

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$$T_m = 81.5\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C} - 16.6(\log_{10} [\text{Na}^+]) + 0.41(\%G + C) - 0.63(\%\text{formamide}) - 600/l,$$

where l = the length of the hybrid in basepairs.

- 10 Stringent wash conditions include, for example, 4X SSC at 65 °C, or 50% formamide, 4X SSC at 42 °C, or 0.5X SSC, 0.1% SDS at 65 °C. Highly stringent wash conditions include, for example, 0.2X SSC at 65 °C.

Preparation of Polynucleotides

- 15 A naturally occurring transmembrane serine protease polynucleotide can be isolated free of other cellular components such as membrane components, proteins, and lipids. Polynucleotides can be made by a cell and isolated using standard nucleic acid purification techniques, synthesized using an amplification technique, such as the polymerase chain reaction (PCR), or synthesized using an automatic synthesizer.
- 20 Methods for isolating polynucleotides are routine and are known in the art. Any such technique for obtaining a polynucleotide can be used to obtain isolated transmembrane serine protease polynucleotides. For example, restriction enzymes and probes can be used to isolate polynucleotide fragments which comprise transmembrane serine protease nucleotide sequences. Isolated polynucleotides are in
- 25 preparations which are free or at least 70, 80, or 90% free of other molecules.

Transmembrane serine protease cDNA molecules can be made with standard molecular biology techniques, using transmembrane serine protease mRNA as a template. Transmembrane serine protease cDNA molecules can thereafter be

30 replicated using molecular biology techniques known in the art and disclosed in

manuals such as Sambrook *et al.* (1989). An amplification technique, such as PCR, can be used to obtain additional copies of transmembrane serine protease polynucleotides, using either human genomic DNA or cDNA as a template.

- 5 Alternatively, synthetic chemistry techniques can be used to synthesize transmembrane serine protease polynucleotides. The degeneracy of the genetic code allows alternate nucleotide sequences to be synthesized which will encode an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide having, for example, the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:12 or a biologically active variant of that sequence.

10

Extending Polynucleotides

- Various PCR-based methods can be used to extend the nucleic acid sequences encoding the disclosed portions of human transmembrane serine protease to detect upstream sequences such as promoters and regulatory elements. For example,
- 15 restriction-site PCR uses universal primers to retrieve unknown sequence adjacent to a known locus (Sarkar, *PCR Methods Applic.* 2, 318-322, 1993). Genomic DNA is first amplified in the presence of a primer to a linker sequence and a primer specific to the known region. The amplified sequences are then subjected to a second round of PCR with the same linker primer and another specific primer internal to the first
- 20 one. Products of each round of PCR are transcribed with an appropriate RNA polymerase and sequenced using reverse transcriptase.

- Inverse PCR also can be used to amplify or extend sequences using divergent primers based on a known region (Triglia *et al.*, *Nucleic Acids Res.* 16, 8186, 1988). Primers
- 25 can be designed using commercially available software, such as OLIGO 4.06 Primer Analysis software (National Biosciences Inc., Plymouth, Minn.), to be 22-30 nucleotides in length, to have a GC content of 50% or more, and to anneal to the target sequence at temperatures about 68 - 72 °C. The method uses several restriction enzymes to generate a suitable fragment in the known region of a gene. The
- 30 fragment is then circularized by intramolecular ligation and used as a PCR template.

Another method which can be used is capture PCR, which involves PCR amplification of DNA fragments adjacent to a known sequence in human and yeast artificial chromosome DNA (Lagerstrom *et al.*, *PCR Methods Applic. 1*, 111-119, 5 1991). In this method, multiple restriction enzyme digestions and ligations are used to place an engineered double-stranded sequence into an unknown fragment of the DNA molecule before performing PCR.

Another method which can be used to retrieve unknown sequences is that of Parker 10 *et al.*, *Nucleic Acids Res. 19*, 3055-3060, 1991. Additionally, PCR, nested primers, and PROMOTERFINDER libraries (CLONTECH, Palo Alto, Calif.) can be used to walk genomic DNA. This process avoids the need to screen libraries and is useful in finding intron/exon junctions.

15 When screening for full-length cDNAs, it is preferable to use libraries that have been size-selected to include larger cDNAs. Also, random-primed libraries are preferable, in that they will contain more sequences which contain the 5' regions of genes. Use of a randomly primed library may be especially preferable for situations in which an oligo d(T) library does not yield a full-length cDNA. Genomic libraries can be 20 useful for extension of sequence into 5' non-transcribed regulatory regions.

Commercially available capillary electrophoresis systems can be used to analyze the size or confirm the nucleotide sequence of PCR or sequencing products. For example, capillary sequencing can employ flowable polymers for electrophoretic 25 separation, four different fluorescent dyes (one for each nucleotide) which are laser activated, and detection of the emitted wavelengths by a charge coupled device camera. Output/light intensity can be converted to electrical signal using appropriate software (*e.g.* GENOTYPER and Sequence NAVIGATOR, Perkin Elmer), and the entire process from loading of samples to computer analysis and electronic data 30 display can be computer controlled. Capillary electrophoresis is especially preferable

for the sequencing of small pieces of DNA which might be present in limited amounts in a particular sample.

Obtaining Polypeptides

- 5 Transmembrane serine protease polypeptides can be obtained, for example, by purification from cells, by expression of transmembrane serine protease polynucleotides, or by direct chemical synthesis.

Protein Purification

- 10 Transmembrane serine protease polypeptides can be purified from cells, such as primary tumor cells, metastatic cells, or cancer cell lines (e.g., colon cancer cell lines HCT116, DLD1, HT29, Caco2, SW837, SW480, and RKO, breast cancer cell lines 21-PT, 21-MT, MDA-468, SK-BR3, and BT-474, the A549 lung cancer cell line, or the H392 glioblastoma cell line), as well as cells transfected with an transmembrane
15 serine protease expression construct. Placenta, breast, colon, and ovarian tumor are especially useful sources of transmembrane serine protease polypeptides. A purified transmembrane serine protease polypeptide is separated from other compounds which normally associate with the transmembrane serine protease polypeptide in the cell, such as certain proteins, carbohydrates, or lipids, using methods well-known in
20 the art. Such methods include, but are not limited to, size exclusion chromatography, ammonium sulfate fractionation, ion exchange chromatography, affinity chromatography, and preparative gel electrophoresis. A preparation of purified transmembrane serine protease polypeptides is at least 80% pure; preferably, the preparations are 90%, 95%, or 99% pure. Purity of the preparations can be assessed
25 by any means known in the art, such as SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis. Enzymatic activity of the purified preparations can be assayed, for example, as described in Example 2.

Expression of Polynucleotides

To express a transmembrane serine protease polypeptide, an transmembrane serine protease polynucleotide can be inserted into an expression vector which contains the
5 necessary elements for the transcription and translation of the inserted coding sequence. Methods which are well known to those skilled in the art can be used to construct expression vectors containing sequences encoding transmembrane serine protease polypeptides and appropriate transcriptional and translational control elements. These methods include *in vitro* recombinant DNA techniques, synthetic
10 techniques, and *in vivo* genetic recombination. Such techniques are described, for example, in Sambrook *et al.* (1989) and Ausubel *et al.*, CURRENT PROTOCOLS IN MOLECULAR BIOLOGY, John Wiley & Sons, New York, N.Y, 1989.

A variety of expression vector/host systems can be utilized to contain and express
15 sequences encoding an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide. These include, but are not limited to, microorganisms, such as bacteria transformed with recombinant bacteriophage, plasmid, or cosmid DNA expression vectors; yeast transformed with yeast expression vectors, insect cell systems infected with virus expression vectors (*e.g.*, baculovirus), plant cell systems transformed with virus
20 expression vectors (*e.g.*, cauliflower mosaic virus, CaMV; tobacco mosaic virus, TMV) or with bacterial expression vectors (*e.g.*, Ti or pBR322 plasmids), or animal cell systems.

The control elements or regulatory sequences are those non-translated regions of the
25 vector -- enhancers, promoters, 5' and 3' untranslated regions -- which interact with host cellular proteins to carry out transcription and translation. Such elements can vary in their strength and specificity. Depending on the vector system and host utilized, any number of suitable transcription and translation elements, including constitutive and inducible promoters, can be used. For example, when cloning in
30 bacterial systems, inducible promoters such as the hybrid lacZ promoter of the

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BLUESCRIPT phagemid (Stratagene, LaJolla, Calif.) or pSPORT1 plasmid (Life Technologies) and the like can be used. The baculovirus polyhedrin promoter can be used in insect cells. Promoters or enhancers derived from the genomes of plant cells (*e.g.*, heat shock, RUBISCO, and storage protein genes) or from plant viruses (5 *e.g.*, viral promoters or leader sequences) can be cloned into the vector. In mammalian cell systems, promoters from mammalian genes or from mammalian viruses are preferable. If it is necessary to generate a cell line that contains multiple copies of a nucleotide sequence encoding an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide, vectors based on SV40 or EBV can be used with an appropriate 10 selectable marker.

Bacterial and Yeast Expression Systems

In bacterial systems, a number of expression vectors can be selected depending upon the use intended for the transmembrane serine protease polypeptide. For example, 15 when a large quantity of an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide is needed for the induction of antibodies, vectors which direct high level expression of fusion proteins that are readily purified can be used. Such vectors include, but are not limited to, multifunctional *E. coli* cloning and expression vectors such as BLUESCRIPT (Stratagene), in which the sequence encoding the transmembrane 20 serine protease polypeptide can be ligated into the vector in frame with sequences for the amino-terminal Met and the subsequent 7 residues of β -galactosidase so that a hybrid protein is produced. pIN vectors (Van Heeke & Schuster, *J. Biol. Chem.* 264, 5503-5509, 1989 or pGEX vectors (Promega, Madison, Wis.) can be used to express foreign polypeptides as fusion proteins with glutathione S-transferase (GST). In 25 general, such fusion proteins are soluble and can easily be purified from lysed cells by adsorption to glutathione-agarose beads followed by elution in the presence of free glutathione. Proteins made in such systems can be designed to include heparin, thrombin, or Factor Xa protease cleavage sites so that the cloned polypeptide of interest can be released from the GST moiety at will.

30

In the yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, a number of vectors containing constitutive or inducible promoters such as alpha factor, alcohol oxidase, and PGH can be used. For reviews, see Ausubel *et al.* (1989) and Grant *et al.*, *Methods Enzymol.* 153, 516-544, 1987.

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Plant and Insect Expression Systems

If plant expression vectors are used, the expression of sequences encoding transmembrane serine protease polypeptides can be driven by any of a number of promoters. For example, viral promoters such as the 35S and 19S promoters of
10 CaMV can be used alone or in combination with the omega leader sequence from TMV (Takamatsu *EMBO J.* 6, 307-311, 1987). Alternatively, plant promoters such as the small subunit of RUBISCO or heat shock promoters can be used (Coruzzi *et al.*, *EMBO J.* 3, 1671-1680, 1984; Broglie *et al.*, *Science* 224, 838-843, 1984; Winter
15 *et al.*, *Results Probl. Cell Differ.* 17, 85-105, 1991). These constructs can be introduced into plant cells by direct DNA transformation or by pathogen-mediated transfection. Such techniques are described in a number of generally available reviews (see, for example, Hobbs or Murray, in MCGRAW HILL YEARBOOK OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, McGraw Hill, New York, N.Y., pp. 191-196, 1992).

20 An insect system also can be used to express an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide. For example, in one such system *Autographa californica* nuclear polyhedrosis virus (AcNPV) is used as a vector to express foreign genes in *Spodoptera frugiperda* cells or in *Trichoplusia* larvae. Sequences encoding transmembrane serine protease polypeptides can be cloned into a non-essential
25 region of the virus, such as the polyhedrin gene, and placed under control of the polyhedrin promoter. Successful insertion of transmembrane serine protease polypeptides will render the polyhedrin gene inactive and produce recombinant virus lacking coat protein. The recombinant viruses can then be used to infect, for example, *S. frugiperda* cells or *Trichoplusia* larvae in which transmembrane serine

protease polypeptides can be expressed (Engelhard *et al.*, *Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci.* 91, 3224-3227, 1994).

Mammalian Expression Systems

- 5 A number of viral-based expression systems can be utilized in mammalian host cells. For example, if an adenovirus is used as an expression vector, sequences encoding transmembrane serine protease polypeptides can be ligated into an adenovirus transcription/translation complex consisting of the late promoter and tripartite leader sequence. Insertion in a non-essential E1 or E3 region of the viral genome can be
- 10 used to obtain a viable virus which is capable of expressing an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide in infected host cells (Logan & Shenk, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.* 81, 3655-3659, 1984). In addition, transcription enhancers, such as the Rous sarcoma virus (RSV) enhancer, can be used to increase expression in mammalian host cells.
- 15 Human artificial chromosomes (HACs) also can be used to deliver larger fragments of DNA than can be contained and expressed in a plasmid. HACs of 6M to 10M are constructed and delivered to cells via conventional delivery methods (*e.g.*, liposomes, polycationic amino polymers, or vesicles).
- 20 Specific initiation signals also can be used to achieve more efficient translation of sequences encoding transmembrane serine protease polypeptides. Such signals include the ATG initiation codon and adjacent sequences. In cases where sequences encoding an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide, its initiation codon, and
- 25 upstream sequences are inserted into the appropriate expression vector, no additional transcriptional or translational control signals may be needed. However, in cases where only coding sequence, or a fragment thereof, is inserted, exogenous translational control signals (including the ATG initiation codon) should be provided. The initiation codon should be in the correct reading frame to ensure translation of
- 30 the entire insert. Exogenous translational elements and initiation codons can be of

- 20 -

various origins, both natural and synthetic. The efficiency of expression can be enhanced by the inclusion of enhancers which are appropriate for the particular cell system which is used (see Scharf *et al.*, *Results Probl. Cell Differ.* 20, 125-162, 1994).

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Host Cells

A host cell strain can be chosen for its ability to modulate the expression of the inserted sequences or to process an expressed transmembrane serine protease polypeptide in the desired fashion. Such modifications of the polypeptide include, but are not limited to, acetylation, carboxylation, glycosylation, phosphorylation, lipidation, and acylation. Post-translational processing which cleaves a "prepro" form of the polypeptide also can be used to facilitate correct insertion, folding and/or function. Different host cells which have specific cellular machinery and characteristic mechanisms for post-translational activities (e.g., CHO, HeLa, MDCK, HEK293, and WI38), are available from the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC; 10801 University Boulevard, Manassas, VA 20110-2209) and can be chosen to ensure the correct modification and processing of the foreign protein.

Stable expression is preferred for long-term, high-yield production of recombinant proteins. For example, cell lines which stably express transmembrane serine protease polypeptides can be transformed using expression vectors which can contain viral origins of replication and/or endogenous expression elements and a selectable marker gene on the same or on a separate vector. Following the introduction of the vector, cells can be allowed to grow for 1-2 days in an enriched medium before they are switched to a selective medium. The purpose of the selectable marker is to confer resistance to selection, and its presence allows growth and recovery of cells which successfully express the introduced transmembrane serine protease sequences. Resistant clones of stably transformed cells can be proliferated using tissue culture techniques appropriate to the cell type.

30

Any number of selection systems can be used to recover transformed cell lines. These include, but are not limited to, the herpes simplex virus thymidine kinase (Wigler *et al.*, *Cell* 11, 223-32, 1977) and adenine phosphoribosyltransferase (Lowy *et al.*, *Cell* 22, 817-23, 1980). Genes which can be employed in *tk* or *aprt* cells, respectively. Also, antimetabolite, antibiotic, or herbicide resistance can be used as the basis for selection. For example, *dhfr* confers resistance to methotrexate (Wigler *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.* 77, 3567-70, 1980); *npt* confers resistance to the aminoglycosides, neomycin and G-418 (Colbere-Garapin *et al.*, *J. Mol. Biol.* 150, 1-14, 1981); and *als* and *pat* confer resistance to chlorsulfuron and phosphinotricin acetyltransferase, respectively (Murray, 1992 *supra*). Additional selectable genes have been described, for example *trpB*, which allows cells to utilize indole in place of tryptophan, or *hisD*, which allows cells to utilize histinol in place of histidine (Hartman & Mulligan, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.* 85, 8047-51, 1988). Visible markers such as anthocyanins, β -glucuronidase and its substrate GUS, and luciferase and its substrate luciferin, can be used to identify transformants and to quantify the amount of transient or stable protein expression attributable to a specific vector system (Rhodes *et al.*, *Methods Mol. Biol.* 55, 121-131, 1995).

Detecting Expression of Polypeptides

Although the presence of marker gene expression suggests that the transmembrane serine protease polynucleotide is also present, its presence and expression may need to be confirmed. For example, if a sequence encoding an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide is inserted within a marker gene sequence, transformed cells containing sequences which encode an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide can be identified by the absence of marker gene function. Alternatively, a marker gene can be placed in tandem with a sequence encoding an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide under the control of a single promoter. Expression of the marker gene in response to induction or selection usually indicates expression of the transmembrane serine protease polynucleotide.

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Alternatively, host cells which contain an transmembrane serine protease polynucleotide and which express an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide can be identified by a variety of procedures known to those of skill in the art. These procedures include, but are not limited to, DNA-DNA or DNA-RNA hybridizations and protein bioassay or immunoassay techniques which include membrane, solution, or chip-based technologies for the detection and/or quantification of nucleic acid or protein.

The presence of a polynucleotide sequence encoding an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide can be detected by DNA-DNA or DNA-RNA hybridization or amplification using probes or fragments or fragments of polynucleotides encoding an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide. Nucleic acid amplification-based assays involve the use of oligonucleotides selected from sequences encoding an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide to detect transformants which contain an transmembrane serine protease polynucleotide.

A variety of protocols for detecting and measuring the expression of an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide, using either polyclonal or monoclonal antibodies specific for the polypeptide, are known in the art. Examples include enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA), radioimmunoassay (RIA), and fluorescence activated cell sorting (FACS). A two-site, monoclonal-based immunoassay using monoclonal antibodies reactive to two non-interfering epitopes on an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide can be used, or a competitive binding assay can be employed. These and other assays are described in Hampton *et al.*, SEROLOGICAL METHODS: A LABORATORY MANUAL, APS Press, St. Paul, Minn., 1990) and Maddox *et al.*, *J. Exp. Med.* 158, 1211-1216, 1983).

A wide variety of labels and conjugation techniques are known by those skilled in the art and can be used in various nucleic acid and amino acid assays. Means for producing labeled hybridization or PCR probes for detecting sequences related to

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polynucleotides encoding transmembrane serine protease polypeptides include oligolabeling, nick translation, end-labeling, or PCR amplification using a labeled nucleotide. Alternatively, sequences encoding an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide can be cloned into a vector for the production of an mRNA probe. Such
5 vectors are known in the art, are commercially available, and can be used to synthesize RNA probes *in vitro* by addition of labeled nucleotides and an appropriate RNA polymerase, such as T7, T3, or SP6. These procedures can be conducted using a variety of commercially available kits (Amersham Pharmacia Biotech, Promega, and US Biochemical). Suitable reporter molecules or labels which can be used for
10 ease of detection include radionuclides, enzymes, fluorescent, chemiluminescent, or chromogenic agents, as well as substrates, cofactors, inhibitors, magnetic particles, and the like.

Expression and Purification of Polypeptides

15 Host cells transformed with nucleotide sequences encoding an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide can be cultured under conditions suitable for the expression and recovery of the protein from cell culture. The polypeptide produced by a transformed cell can be secreted or contained intracellularly depending on the sequence and/or the vector used. As will be understood by those of skill in the art, expression vectors
20 containing polynucleotides which encode transmembrane serine protease polypeptides can be designed to contain signal sequences which direct secretion of transmembrane serine protease polypeptides through a prokaryotic or eukaryotic cell membrane.

25 Other constructions can be used to join a sequence encoding an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide to a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide domain which will facilitate purification of soluble proteins. Such purification facilitating domains include, but are not limited to, metal chelating peptides such as histidine-tryptophan modules that allow purification on immobilized metals, protein
30 A domains that allow purification on immobilized immunoglobulin, and the domain

utilized in the FLAGS extension/affinity purification system (Immunex Corp., Seattle, Wash.). The inclusion of cleavable linker sequences such as those specific for Factor Xa or enterokinase (Invitrogen, San Diego, CA) between the purification domain and the transmembrane serine protease polypeptide can be used to facilitate purification. One such expression vector provides for expression of a fusion protein containing an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide and 6 histidine residues preceding a thioredoxin or an enterokinase cleavage site. The histidine residues facilitate purification on IMAC (immobilized metal ion affinity chromatography as described in Porath *et al.*, *Prot. Exp. Purif.* 3, 263-281, 1992), while the enterokinase cleavage site provides a means for purifying the transmembrane serine protease polypeptide from the fusion protein. Vectors which contain fusion proteins are disclosed in Kroll *et al.*, *DNA Cell Biol.* 12, 441-453, 1993).

Chemical Synthesis

Sequences encoding an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide can be synthesized, in whole or in part, using chemical methods well known in the art (see Caruthers *et al.*, *Nucl. Acids Res. Symp. Ser.* 215-223, 1980; Horn *et al.* *Nucl. Acids Res. Symp. Ser.* 225-232, 1980). Alternatively, an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide itself can be produced using chemical methods to synthesize its amino acid sequence. For example, transmembrane serine protease polypeptides can be produced by direct peptide synthesis using solid-phase techniques (Merrifield, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 85, 2149-2154, 1963; Roberge *et al.*, *Science* 269, 202-204, 1995). Protein synthesis can be performed using manual techniques or by automation. Automated synthesis can be achieved, for example, using Applied Biosystems 431A Peptide Synthesizer (Perkin Elmer). Various fragments of transmembrane serine protease polypeptides can be separately synthesized and combined using chemical methods to produce a full-length molecule.

The newly synthesized peptide can be substantially purified by preparative high performance liquid chromatography (*e.g.*, Creighton, *PROTEINS: STRUCTURES AND*

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MOLECULAR PRINCIPLES, WH Freeman and Co., New York, N.Y., 1983). The composition of a synthetic transmembrane serine protease polypeptide can be confirmed by amino acid analysis or sequencing (e.g., the Edman degradation procedure; *see* Creighton, *supra*). Additionally, any portion of the amino acid sequence of the transmembrane serine protease polypeptide can be altered during direct synthesis and/or combined using chemical methods with sequences from other proteins to produce a variant polypeptide or a fusion protein.

Production of Altered Polypeptides

As will be understood by those of skill in the art, it may be advantageous to produce transmembrane serine protease polypeptide-encoding nucleotide sequences possessing non-naturally occurring codons. For example, codons preferred by a particular prokaryotic or eukaryotic host can be selected to increase the rate of protein expression or to produce an RNA transcript having desirable properties, such as a half-life which is longer than that of a transcript generated from the naturally occurring sequence.

The nucleotide sequences disclosed herein can be engineered using methods generally known in the art to alter transmembrane serine protease polypeptide-encoding sequences for a variety of reasons, including modification of the cloning, processing, and/or expression of the gene product. DNA shuffling by random fragmentation and PCR reassembly of gene fragments and synthetic oligonucleotides can be used to engineer the nucleotide sequences. For example, site-directed mutagenesis can be used to insert new restriction sites, alter glycosylation patterns, change codon preference, produce splice variants, introduce mutations, and so forth.

Antibodies

Any type of antibody known in the art can be generated to bind specifically to an epitope of an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide. "Antibody" as used herein includes intact immunoglobulin molecules, as well as fragments thereof, such as Fab,

F(ab')₂, and Fv, which are capable of binding an epitope of an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide. Typically, at least 6, 8, 10, or 12 contiguous amino acids are required to form an epitope. However, epitopes which involve non-contiguous amino acids may require more, e.g., at least 15, 25, or 50 amino acids.

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An antibody which specifically binds to an epitope of an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide can be used therapeutically, as well as in immunochemical assays, including but not limited to Western blots, ELISAs, radioimmunoassays, immunohistochemical assays, immunoprecipitations, or other immunochemical assays known in the art. Various immunoassays can be used to identify antibodies having the desired specificity. Numerous protocols for competitive binding or immunoradiometric assays are well known in the art. Such immunoassays typically involve the measurement of complex formation between an immunogen and an antibody which specifically binds to the immunogen.

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Typically, an antibody which specifically binds to an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide provides a detection signal at least 5-, 10-, or 20-fold higher than a detection signal provided with other proteins when used in an immunochemical assay. Preferably, antibodies which specifically bind to transmembrane serine protease polypeptides do not detect other proteins in immunochemical assays and can immunoprecipitate an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide from solution.

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Transmembrane serine protease polypeptides can be used to immunize a mammal, such as a mouse, rat, rabbit, guinea pig, monkey, or human, to produce polyclonal antibodies. If desired, an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide can be conjugated to a carrier protein, such as bovine serum albumin, thyroglobulin, and keyhole limpet hemocyanin. Depending on the host species, various adjuvants can be used to increase the immunological response. Such adjuvants include, but are not limited to, Freund's adjuvant, mineral gels (e.g., aluminum hydroxide), and surface active substances (e.g. lysolecithin, pluronic polyols, polyanions, peptides, oil

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emulsions, keyhole limpet hemocyanin, and dinitrophenol). Among adjuvants used in humans, BCG (*bacilli Calmette-Guerin*) and *Corynebacterium parvum* are especially useful.

- 5 Monoclonal antibodies which specifically bind to an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide can be prepared using any technique which provides for the production of antibody molecules by continuous cell lines in culture. These techniques include, but are not limited to, the hybridoma technique, the human B-cell hybridoma technique, and the EBV-hybridoma technique (Kohler *et al.*, *Nature* 256, 495-497, 10 1985; Kozbor *et al.*, *J. Immunol. Methods* 81, 31-42, 1985; Cote *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.* 80, 2026-2030, 1983; Cole *et al.*, *Mol. Cell Biol.* 62, 109-120, 1984).

In addition, techniques developed for the production of "chimeric antibodies," the splicing of mouse antibody genes to human antibody genes to obtain a molecule with appropriate antigen specificity and biological activity, can be used (Morrison *et al.*, 15 *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.* 81, 6851-6855, 1984; Neuberger *et al.*, *Nature* 312, 604-608, 1984; Takeda *et al.*, *Nature* 314, 452-454, 1985). Monoclonal and other antibodies also can be "humanized" to prevent a patient from mounting an immune response against the antibody when it is used therapeutically. Such antibodies may be 20 sufficiently similar in sequence to human antibodies to be used directly in therapy or may require alteration of a few key residues. Sequence differences between rodent antibodies and human sequences can be minimized by replacing residues which differ from those in the human sequences by site directed mutagenesis of individual residues or by grating of entire complementarity determining regions. Alternatively, 25 one can produce humanized antibodies using recombinant methods, as described in GB2188638B. Antibodies which specifically bind to an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide can contain antigen binding sites which are either partially or fully humanized, as disclosed in U.S. 5,565,332.

Alternatively, techniques described for the production of single chain antibodies can be adapted using methods known in the art to produce single chain antibodies which specifically bind to transmembrane serine protease polypeptides. Antibodies with related specificity, but of distinct idiotypic composition, can be generated by chain
5 shuffling from random combinatorial immunoglobulin libraries (Burton, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.* 88, 11120-23, 1991).

Single-chain antibodies also can be constructed using a DNA amplification method, such as PCR, using hybridoma cDNA as a template (Thirion *et al.*, 1996, *Eur. J. Cancer Prev.* 5, 507-11). Single-chain antibodies can be mono- or bispecific, and
10 can be bivalent or tetravalent. Construction of tetravalent, bispecific single-chain antibodies is taught, for example, in Coloma & Morrison, 1997, *Nat. Biotechnol.* 15, 159-63. Construction of bivalent, bispecific single-chain antibodies is taught in Mallender & Voss, 1994, *J. Biol. Chem.* 269, 199-206.

15 A nucleotide sequence encoding a single-chain antibody can be constructed using manual or automated nucleotide synthesis, cloned into an expression construct using standard recombinant DNA methods, and introduced into a cell to express the coding sequence, as described below. Alternatively, single-chain antibodies can be
20 produced directly using, for example, filamentous phage technology. Verhaar *et al.*, 1995, *Int. J. Cancer* 61, 497-501; Nicholls *et al.*, 1993, *J. Immunol. Meth.* 165, 81-91.

Antibodies which specifically bind to transmembrane serine protease polypeptides
25 also can be produced by inducing *in vivo* production in the lymphocyte population or by screening immunoglobulin libraries or panels of highly specific binding reagents as disclosed in the literature (Orlandi *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.* 86, 3833-3837, 1989; Winter *et al.*, *Nature* 349, 293-299, 1991).

Other types of antibodies can be constructed and used therapeutically in methods of the invention. For example, chimeric antibodies can be constructed as disclosed in WO 93/03151. Binding proteins which are derived from immunoglobulins and which are multivalent and multispecific, such as the "diabodies" described in WO 94/13804, also can be prepared.

Antibodies of the invention can be purified by methods well known in the art. For example, antibodies can be affinity purified by passage over a column to which a transmembrane serine protease polypeptide is bound. The bound antibodies can then be eluted from the column using a buffer with a high salt concentration.

Antisense Oligonucleotides

Antisense oligonucleotides are nucleotide sequences which are complementary to a specific DNA or RNA sequence. Once introduced into a cell, the complementary nucleotides combine with natural sequences produced by the cell to form complexes and block either transcription or translation. Preferably, an antisense oligonucleotide is at least 11 nucleotides in length, but can be at least 12, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, or 50 or more nucleotides long. Longer sequences also can be used. Antisense oligonucleotide molecules can be provided in a DNA construct and introduced into a cell as described above to decrease the level of transmembrane serine protease gene products in the cell.

Antisense oligonucleotides can be deoxyribonucleotides, ribonucleotides, or a combination of both. Oligonucleotides can be synthesized manually or by an automated synthesizer, by covalently linking the 5' end of one nucleotide with the 3' end of another nucleotide with non-phosphodiester internucleotide linkages such as alkylphosphonates, phosphorothioates, phosphorodithioates, alkylphosphonothioates, alkylphosphonates, phosphoramidates, phosphate esters, carbamates, acetamidate, carboxymethyl esters, carbonates, and phosphate triesters. See Brown, *Meth. Mol.*

Biol. 20, 1-8, 1994; Sonveaux, *Meth. Mol. Biol. 26*, 1-72, 1994; Uhlmann *et al.*, *Chem. Rev. 90*, 543-583, 1990.

Modifications of transmembrane serine protease gene expression can be obtained by
5 designing antisense oligonucleotides which will form duplexes to the control, 5', or
regulatory regions of the transmembrane serine protease gene. Oligonucleotides
derived from the transcription initiation site, *e.g.*, between positions -10 and +10
from the start site, are preferred. Similarly, inhibition can be achieved using "triple
helix" base-pairing methodology. Triple helix pairing is useful because it causes
10 inhibition of the ability of the double helix to open sufficiently for the binding of
polymerases, transcription factors, or chaperons. Therapeutic advances using triplex
DNA have been described in the literature (*e.g.*, Gee *et al.*, in Huber & Carr,
MOLECULAR AND IMMUNOLOGIC APPROACHES, Futura Publishing Co., Mt. Kisco,
N.Y., 1994). An antisense oligonucleotide also can be designed to block translation
15 of mRNA by preventing the transcript from binding to ribosomes.

Precise complementarity is not required for successful duplex formation between an
antisense oligonucleotide and the complementary sequence of an transmembrane
serine protease polynucleotide. Antisense oligonucleotides which comprise, for
20 example, 2, 3, 4, or 5 or more stretches of contiguous nucleotides which are precisely
complementary to an transmembrane serine protease polynucleotide, each separated
by a stretch of contiguous nucleotides which are not complementary to adjacent
transmembrane serine protease nucleotides, can provide targeting specificity for
transmembrane serine protease mRNA. Preferably, each stretch of complementary
25 contiguous nucleotides is at least 4, 5, 6, 7, or 8 or more nucleotides in length. Non-
complementary intervening sequences are preferably 1, 2, 3, or 4 nucleotides in
length. One skilled in the art can easily use the calculated melting point of an
antisense-sense pair to determine the degree of mismatching which will be tolerated
between a particular antisense oligonucleotide and a particular transmembrane serine
30 protease polynucleotide sequence.

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Antisense oligonucleotides can be modified without affecting their ability to hybridize to an transmembrane serine protease polynucleotide. These modifications can be internal or at one or both ends of the antisense molecule. For example, internucleoside phosphate linkages can be modified by adding cholesteryl or diamine moieties with varying numbers of carbon residues between the amino groups and terminal ribose. Modified bases and/or sugars, such as arabinose instead of ribose, or a 3', 5'-substituted oligonucleotide in which the 3' hydroxyl group or the 5' phosphate group are substituted, also can be employed in a modified antisense oligonucleotide. These modified oligonucleotides can be prepared by methods well known in the art. See, e.g., Agrawal *et al.*, *Trends Biotechnol.* 10, 152-158, 1992; Uhlmann *et al.*, *Chem. Rev.* 90, 543-584, 1990; Uhlmann *et al.*, *Tetrahedron. Lett.* 215, 3539-3542, 1987.

15 Ribozymes

Ribozymes are RNA molecules with catalytic activity. See, e.g., Cech, *Science* 236, 1532-1539; 1987; Cech, *Ann. Rev. Biochem.* 59, 543-568; 1990, Cech, *Curr. Opin. Struct. Biol.* 2, 605-609; 1992, Couture & Stinchcomb, *Trends Genet.* 12, 510-515, 1996. Ribozymes can be used to inhibit gene function by cleaving an RNA sequence, as is known in the art (e.g., Haseloff *et al.*, U.S. Patent 5,641,673). The mechanism of ribozyme action involves sequence-specific hybridization of the ribozyme molecule to complementary target RNA, followed by endonucleolytic cleavage. Examples include engineered hammerhead motif ribozyme molecules that can specifically and efficiently catalyze endonucleolytic cleavage of specific nucleotide sequences.

The coding sequence of an transmembrane serine protease polynucleotide can be used to generate ribozymes which will specifically bind to mRNA transcribed from the transmembrane serine protease polynucleotide. Methods of designing and constructing ribozymes which can cleave other RNA molecules in trans in a highly

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sequence specific manner have been developed and described in the art (*see* Haseloff *et al. Nature* 334, 585-591, 1988). For example, the cleavage activity of ribozymes can be targeted to specific RNAs by engineering a discrete "hybridization" region into the ribozyme. The hybridization region contains a sequence complementary to
5 the target RNA and thus specifically hybridizes with the target (*see, for example, Gerlach et al., EP 321,201*).

Specific ribozyme cleavage sites within a transmembrane serine protease RNA target are initially identified by scanning the RNA molecule for ribozyme cleavage sites
10 which include the following sequences: GUA, GUU, and GUC. Once identified, short RNA sequences of between 15 and 20 ribonucleotides corresponding to the region of the transmembrane serine protease target RNA containing the cleavage site can be evaluated for secondary structural features which may render the target inoperable. The suitability of candidate targets also can be evaluated by testing
15 accessibility to hybridization with complementary oligonucleotides using ribonuclease protection assays. Longer complementary sequences can be used to increase the affinity of the hybridization sequence for the target. The hybridizing and cleavage regions of the ribozyme can be integrally related; thus, upon hybridizing to the transmembrane serine protease target RNA through the complementary regions,
20 the catalytic region of the ribozyme can cleave the target.

Ribozymes can be introduced into cells as part of a DNA construct. Mechanical methods, such as microinjection, liposome-mediated transfection, electroporation, or calcium phosphate precipitation, can be used to introduce a ribozyme-containing
25 DNA construct into cells in which it is desired to decrease transmembrane serine protease expression. Alternatively, if it is desired that the cells stably retain the DNA construct, it can be supplied on a plasmid and maintained as a separate element or integrated into the genome of the cells, as is known in the art. The DNA construct can include transcriptional regulatory elements, such as a promoter element, an

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enhancer or UAS element, and a transcriptional terminator signal, for controlling transcription of ribozymes in the cells.

As taught in Haseloff *et al.*, U.S. Patent 5,641,673, ribozymes can be engineered so that ribozyme expression will occur in response to factors which induce expression of a target gene. Ribozymes also can be engineered to provide an additional level of regulation, so that destruction of transmembrane serine protease mRNA occurs only when both a ribozyme and a target gene are induced in the cells.

10 Differentially Expressed Genes

Described herein are methods for the identification of genes whose products interact with human transmembrane serine protease. Such genes may represent genes that are differentially expressed in disorders including, but not limited to, COPD, CNS disorders, cardiovascular disorders, and cancer. Further, such genes may represent genes that are differentially regulated in response to manipulations relevant to the progression or treatment of such diseases. Additionally, such genes may have a temporally modulated expression, increased or decreased at different stages of tissue or organism development. A differentially expressed gene may also have its expression modulated under control versus experimental conditions. In addition, the human transmembrane serine protease gene or gene product may itself be tested for differential expression.

The degree to which expression differs in a normal versus a diseased state need only be large enough to be visualized via standard characterization techniques such as differential display techniques. Other such standard characterization techniques by which expression differences may be visualized include but are not limited to, quantitative RT (reverse transcriptase), PCR, and Northern analysis.

Identification of Differentially Expressed Genes

To identify differentially expressed genes total RNA or, preferably, mRNA is isolated from tissues of interest. For example, RNA samples are obtained from tissues of experimental subjects and from corresponding tissues of control subjects.

5 Any RNA isolation technique that does not select against the isolation of mRNA may be utilized for the purification of such RNA samples. See, for example, Ausubel *et al.*, ed., CURRENT PROTOCOLS IN MOLECULAR BIOLOGY, John Wiley & Sons, Inc. New York, 1987-1993. Large numbers of tissue samples may readily be processed using techniques well known to those of skill in the art, such as, for example, the

10 single-step RNA isolation process of Chomczynski, U.S. Patent 4,843,155.

Transcripts within the collected RNA samples that represent RNA produced by differentially expressed genes are identified by methods well known to those of skill in the art. They include, for example, differential screening (Tedder *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* 85, 208-12, 1988), subtractive hybridization (Hedrick *et al.*, *Nature* 308, 149-53; Lee *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* 88, 2825, 1984), and differential display (Liang & Pardee, *Science* 257, 967-71, 1992; U.S. Patent 5,262,311), and microarrays.

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20 The differential expression information may itself suggest relevant methods for the treatment of disorders involving the human transmembrane serine protease. For example, treatment may include a modulation of expression of the differentially expressed genes and/or the gene encoding the human transmembrane serine protease. The differential expression information may indicate whether the expression or

25 activity of the differentially expressed gene or gene product or the human transmembrane serine protease gene or gene product are up-regulated or down-regulated.

Screening Methods

The invention provides methods for identifying modulators, *i.e.*, candidate or test compounds which bind to transmembrane serine protease polypeptides or polynucleotides and/or have a stimulatory or inhibitory effect on, for example, expression or activity of the transmembrane serine protease polypeptide or polynucleotide, so as to regulate degradation of the extracellular matrix. Decreased extracellular matrix degradation is useful for preventing or suppressing malignant cells from metastasizing. Increased extracellular matrix degradation may be desired, for example, in developmental disorders characterized by inappropriately low levels of extracellular matrix degradation or in regeneration.

The invention provides assays for screening test compounds which bind to or modulate the activity of an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide or an transmembrane serine protease polynucleotide. A test compound preferably binds to an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide or polynucleotide. More preferably, a test compound decreases an transmembrane serine protease activity of an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide or expression of an transmembrane serine protease polynucleotide by at least about 10, preferably about 50, more preferably about 75, 90, or 100% relative to the absence of the test compound.

Test Compounds

Test compounds can be pharmacologic agents already known in the art or can be compounds previously unknown to have any pharmacological activity. The compounds can be naturally occurring or designed in the laboratory. They can be isolated from microorganisms, animals, or plants, and can be produced recombinantly, or synthesized by chemical methods known in the art. If desired, test compounds can be obtained using any of the numerous combinatorial library methods known in the art, including but not limited to, biological libraries, spatially addressable parallel solid phase or solution phase libraries, synthetic library methods requiring deconvolution, the "one-bead one-compound" library method, and

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synthetic library methods using affinity chromatography selection. The biological library approach is limited to polypeptide libraries, while the other four approaches are applicable to polypeptide, non-peptide oligomer, or small molecule libraries of compounds. See Lam, *Anticancer Drug Des.* 12, 145, 1997.

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Methods for the synthesis of molecular libraries are well known in the art (see, for example, DeWitt *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* 90, 6909, 1993; Erb *et al.* *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* 91, 11422, 1994; Zuckermann *et al.*, *J. Med. Chem.* 37, 2678, 1994; Cho *et al.*, *Science* 261, 1303, 1993; Carell *et al.*, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. Engl.* 33, 2059, 1994; Carell *et al.*, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. Engl.* 33, 2061; Gallop *et al.*, *J. Med. Chem.* 37, 1233, 1994). Libraries of compounds can be presented in solution (see, e.g., Houghten, *BioTechniques* 13, 412-421, 1992), or on beads (Lam, *Nature* 354, 82-84, 1991), chips (Fodor, *Nature* 364, 555-556, 1993), bacteria or spores (Ladner, U.S. Patent 5,223,409), plasmids (Cull *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* 89, 1865-1869, 1992), or phage (Scott & Smith, *Science* 249, 386-390, 1990; Devlin, *Science* 249, 404-406, 1990); Cwirla *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.* 97, 6378-6382, 1990; Felici, *J. Mol. Biol.* 222, 301-310, 1991; and Ladner, U.S. Patent 5,223,409).

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High Throughput Screening

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Test compounds can be screened for the ability to bind to transmembrane serine protease polypeptides or polynucleotides or to affect transmembrane serine protease activity or transmembrane serine protease gene expression using high throughput screening. Using high throughput screening, many discrete compounds can be tested in parallel so that large numbers of test compounds can be quickly screened. The most widely established techniques utilize 96-well microtiter plates. The wells of the microtiter plates typically require assay volumes that range from 50 to 500 μ l. In addition to the plates, many instruments, materials, pipettors, robotics, plate washers, and plate readers are commercially available to fit the 96-well format.

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(54) Title: REGULATION OF HUMAN TRANSMEMBRANE SERINE PROTEASE

(57) Abstract: Reagents which regulate human transmembrane serine protease activity and reagents which bind to human transmembrane serine protease gene products can be used to regulate extracellular matrix degradation. Such regulation is particularly useful for treating COPD, metastasis of malignant cells, tumor angiogenesis, inflammation, atherosclerosis, neurodegenerative diseases, and pathogenic infections.

REGULATION OF HUMAN TRANSMEMBRANE SERINE PROTEASE

TECHNICAL FIELD OF THE INVENTION

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The invention relates to the area of regulation human transmembrane serine protease activity to provide therapeutic effects.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

10

Metastasizing cancer cells invade the extracellular matrix using plasma membrane protrusions that contact and dissolve the matrix with proteases. Agents which inhibit such protease activity can be used to suppress metastases. Proteases also are expressed during development, when degradation of the extracellular matrix is
15 desired. In cases where appropriate extracellular matrix degradation does not occur, supplying a molecule with a protease activity can provide the necessary enzymatic activity. Thus, there is a need in the art for identifying new proteases and methods of regulating extracellular matrix degradation.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

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It is an object of the invention to provide reagents and methods of regulating human transmembrane serine protease. These and other objects of the invention are provided by one or more of the embodiments described below.

25

One embodiment of the invention is a transmembrane serine protease polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

amino acid sequences which are at least about 50% identical to the amino acid
30 sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 12; and

- 2 -

the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 12;

Yet another embodiment of the invention is a method of screening for agents which
5 decrease extracellular matrix degradation. A test compound is contacted with a
transmembrane serine protease polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence
selected from the group consisting of:

amino acid sequences which are at least about 50% identical to the amino acid
10 sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 12; and

the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 12;

Binding between the test compound and the transmembrane serine protease
15 polypeptide is detected. A test compound which binds to the transmembrane serine
protease polypeptide is thereby identified as a potential agent for decreasing
extracellular matrix degradation. The agent can work by decreasing the activity of the
transmembrane serine protease.

20 Another embodiment of the invention is a method of screening for agents which
decrease extracellular matrix degradation. A test compound is contacted with a
polynucleotide encoding a transmembrane serine protease polypeptide, wherein the
polynucleotide comprises a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting
of:

25 nucleotide sequences which are at least 50% identical to the nucleotide sequence
shown in SEQ ID NO:11; and

the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:11.

30

- 3 -

Binding of the test compound to the polynucleotide is detected. A test compound which binds to the polynucleotide is identified as a potential agent for decreasing extracellular matrix degradation. The agent can work by decreasing the amount of the transmembrane serine protease through interacting with the transmembrane serine protease mRNA.

Another embodiment of the invention is a method of screening for agents which regulate extracellular matrix degradation. A test compound is contacted with a transmembrane serine protease polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

amino acid sequences which are at least about 50% identical to the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 12; and

the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 12;

A transmembrane serine protease activity of the polypeptide is detected. A test compound which increases transmembrane serine protease activity of the polypeptide relative to transmembrane serine protease activity in the absence of the test compound is thereby identified as a potential agent for increasing extracellular matrix degradation. A test compound which decreases transmembrane serine protease activity of the polypeptide relative to transmembrane serine protease activity in the absence of the test compound is thereby identified as a potential agent for decreasing extracellular matrix degradation.

Even another embodiment of the invention is a method of screening for agents which decrease extracellular matrix degradation. A test compound is contacted with a transmembrane serine protease product of a polynucleotide which comprises a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

nucleotide sequences which are at least about 50% identical to the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:11; and

the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:11.

5

Binding of the test compound to the transmembrane serine protease product is detected. A test compound which binds to the transmembrane serine protease product is thereby identified as a potential agent for decreasing extracellular matrix degradation.

10

Still another embodiment of the invention is a method of reducing extracellular matrix degradation. A cell is contacted with a reagent which specifically binds to a polynucleotide encoding a transmembrane serine protease polypeptide or the product encoded by the polynucleotide, wherein the polynucleotide comprises a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

15

nucleotide sequences which are at least about 50% identical to the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:11; and

20 the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:11.

Transmembrane serine protease activity in the cell is thereby decreased.

The invention thus provides reagents and methods for regulating human transmembrane serine protease activity which can be used *inter alia*, to treat COPD, metastasis of malignant cells, tumor angiogenesis, inflammation, atherosclerosis, neurodegenerative diseases, and pathogenic infections.

25

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1. Alignment of human transmembrane serine protease as shown in SEQ ID
NO:12 with the protein identified by SwissProt Accession No. O15393 (SEQ ID
5 NO:14).

FIG. 2. Prosite search results.

FIG. 3. BLOCKS search results.
10

FIG. 4. Relative expression of human transmembrane serine protease in respiratory
cells and tissues.

FIG. 5. Relative expression of human transmembrane serine protease in various
15 human tissues and the neutrophil-like cell line HL60.

FIG. 6. Northern blot showing expression of human transmembrane serine protease.

FIG. 7. Relative expression of human transmembrane serine protease in various
20 tissues.

FIG. 8. Fold change in expression of human transmembrane serine protease in
various cancer cells.

25 **DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION**

The invention relates to an isolated polynucleotide encoding a transmembrane serine
protease polypeptide and being selected from the group consisting of:

- 6 -

- a) a polynucleotide encoding a transmembrane serine protease polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:
- amino acid sequences which are at least about 50% identical to
- 5 the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 12;
the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:12;
- b) a polynucleotide comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO:11;
- 10 c) a polynucleotide which hybridizes under stringent conditions to a polynucleotide specified in (a) and (b);
- d) a polynucleotide the sequence of which deviates from the polynucleotide sequences specified in (a) to (c) due to the degeneration of the genetic code;
- 15 and
- e) a polynucleotide which represents a fragment, derivative or allelic variation of a polynucleotide sequence specified in (a) to (d).
- 20 Furthermore, it has been discovered by the present applicant that regulators of a transmembrane serine protease, particularly a human transmembrane serine protease, can be used to regulate degradation of the extracellular matrix. Human transmembrane serine protease as shown in SEQ ID NO:12 is 38 % identical over a 370 amino acid overlap to the protein identified by SwissProt Accession No. O15393
- 25 (SEQ ID NO:14) and annotated as a transmembrane serine protease 2 (FIG. 1). Related ESTs (SEQ ID NOS:1-8) are expressed in placenta, breast, colon, and ovarian tumor. The results of Prosite and BLOCKS searches are shown in FIGS. 2 and 3, respectively. Human transmembrane serine protease is therefore expected to be useful for the same purposes as previously identified serine proteases.

30

Polypeptides

Transmembrane serine protease polypeptides according to the invention comprise at least 10, 15, 25, 50, 75, 100, 125, 150, 175, 200, 225, 250, 275, 300, 350, 400, or 410 contiguous amino acids selected from SEQ ID NO:12 or from a biologically active variant thereof, as defined below. An transmembrane serine protease polypeptide of the invention therefore can be a portion of an transmembrane serine protease molecule, a full-length transmembrane serine protease molecule, or a fusion protein comprising all or a portion of an transmembrane serine protease molecule.

10 Biologically Active Variants

Transmembrane serine protease variants which are biologically active, *i.e.*, retain an transmembrane serine protease activity, also are transmembrane serine protease polypeptides. Preferably, naturally or non-naturally occurring transmembrane serine protease variants have amino acid sequences which are at least about 50, preferably about 75, 90, 96, or 98% identical to an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 12. Percent identity between a putative transmembrane serine protease variant and an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:12 is determined using the Blast2 alignment program (Blosun62, Expect 10, standard genetic codes).

20 Variations in percent identity can be due, for example, to amino acid substitutions, insertions, or deletions. Amino acid substitutions are defined as one for one amino acid replacements. They are conservative in nature when the substituted amino acid has similar structural and/or chemical properties. Examples of conservative replacements are substitution of a leucine with an isoleucine or valine, an aspartate with a glutamate, or a threonine with a serine.

Amino acid insertions or deletions are changes to or within an amino acid sequence. They typically fall in the range of about 1 to 5 amino acids. Guidance in determining which amino acid residues can be substituted, inserted, or deleted without abolishing biological or immunological activity can be found using computer programs well

known in the art, such as DNASTAR software. Whether an amino acid change results in a biologically active transmembrane serine protease polypeptide can readily be determined by assaying for fibronectin binding or for transmembrane serine protease activity, as is known in the art and described, for example, in Example 2.

5

Fusion Proteins

Fusion proteins are useful for generating antibodies against transmembrane serine protease amino acid sequences and for use in various assay systems. For example, fusion proteins can be used to identify proteins which interact with portions of an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide, including its active site and fibronectin domains. Methods such as protein affinity chromatography or library-based assays for protein-protein interactions, such as the yeast two-hybrid or phage display systems, can be used for this purpose. Such methods are well known in the art and also can be used as drug screens.

15

An transmembrane serine protease fusion protein comprises two protein segments fused together by means of a peptide bond. For example, the first protein segment can comprise at least 10, 15, 25, 50, 75, 100, 125, 150, 175, 200, 225, 250, 275, 300, 350, 400, or 410 contiguous amino acids selected from SEQ ID NO:12 or a biologically active variant thereof. Preferably, a fusion protein comprises the active site of the protease, one or both of the trypsin_ser or trypsin_his domains, or one or more of the functional domains identified in FIGS. 1-3. The first protein segment also can comprise full-length transmembrane serine protease.

25 The second protein segment can be a full-length protein or a protein fragment or polypeptide. Proteins commonly used in fusion protein construction include β -galactosidase, β -glucuronidase, green fluorescent protein (GFP), autofluorescent proteins, including blue fluorescent protein (BFP), glutathione-S-transferase (GST), luciferase, horseradish peroxidase (HRP), and chloramphenicol acetyltransferase
30 (CAT). Additionally, epitope tags are used in fusion protein constructions, including

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- histidine (His) tags, FLAG tags, influenza hemagglutinin (HA) tags, Myc tags, VSV-G tags, and thioredoxin (Trx) tags. Other fusion constructions can include maltose binding protein (MBP), S-tag, Lex a DNA binding domain (DBD) fusions, GAL4 DNA binding domain fusions, and herpes simplex virus (HSV) BP16 protein fusions.
- 5 A fusion protein also can be engineered to contain a cleavage site located between the transmembrane serine protease polypeptide-encoding sequence and the heterologous protein sequence, so that the transmembrane serine protease polypeptide can be cleaved and purified away from the heterologous moiety.
- 10 A fusion protein can be synthesized chemically, as is known in the art. Preferably, a fusion protein is produced by covalently linking two protein segments or by standard procedures in the art of molecular biology. Recombinant DNA methods can be used to prepare fusion proteins, for example, by making a DNA construct which comprises transmembrane serine protease coding sequences disclosed herein in
- 15 proper reading frame with nucleotides encoding the second protein segment and expressing the DNA construct in a host cell, as is known in the art. Many kits for constructing fusion proteins are available from companies such as Promega Corporation (Madison, WI), Stratagene (La Jolla, CA), CLONTECH (Mountain View, CA), Santa Cruz Biotechnology (Santa Cruz, CA), MBL International
- 20 Corporation (MIC; Watertown, MA), and Quantum Biotechnologies (Montreal, Canada; 1-888-DNA-KITS).

Identification of Species Homologs

- Species homologs of human transmembrane serine protease can be obtained using
- 25 transmembrane serine protease polynucleotides (described below) to make suitable probes or primers to screening cDNA expression libraries from other species, such as mice, monkeys, or yeast, identifying cDNAs which encode homologs of transmembrane serine protease, and expressing the cDNAs as is known in the art.

Polynucleotides

An transmembrane serine protease polynucleotide can be single- or double-stranded and comprises a coding sequence or the complement of a coding sequence for an
5 transmembrane serine protease polypeptide. A coding sequence for the transmembrane serine protease of SEQ ID NO:12 is shown in SEQ ID NO:11.

Degenerate nucleotide sequences encoding human transmembrane serine protease polypeptides, as well as homologous nucleotide sequences which are at least about
10 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, preferably about 75, 90, 96, or 98% identical to the transmembrane serine protease coding sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:11 also are transmembrane serine protease polynucleotides. Percent sequence identity between the sequences of two polynucleotides is determined using computer programs such as ALIGN which employ the FASTA algorithm, using an affine gap search with a gap
15 open penalty of -12 and a gap extension penalty of -2. Complementary DNA (cDNA) molecules, species homologs, and variants of transmembrane serine protease polynucleotides which encode biologically active transmembrane serine protease polypeptides also are transmembrane serine protease polynucleotides.

20 Identification of Variants and Homologs

Variants and homologs of the transmembrane serine protease polynucleotides disclosed above also are transmembrane serine protease polynucleotides. Typically, homologous transmembrane serine protease polynucleotide sequences can be identified by hybridization of candidate polynucleotides to known transmembrane
25 serine protease polynucleotides under stringent conditions, as is known in the art. For example, using the following wash conditions--2X SSC (0.3 M NaCl, 0.03 M sodium citrate, pH 7.0), 0.1% SDS, room temperature twice, 30 minutes each; then 2X SSC, 0.1% SDS, 50 °C once, 30 minutes; then 2X SSC, room temperature twice, 10 minutes each--homologous sequences can be identified which contain at most
30 about 25-30%--basepair mismatches. More preferably, homologous nucleic acid

strands contain 15-25% basepair mismatches, even more preferably 5-15% basepair mismatches.

Species homologs of the transmembrane serine protease polynucleotides disclosed
5 herein can be identified by making suitable probes or primers and screening cDNA
expression libraries from other species, such as mice, monkeys, or yeast. Human
variants of transmembrane serine protease polynucleotides can be identified, for
example, by screening human cDNA expression libraries. It is well known that the
10 T_m of a double-stranded DNA decreases by 1-1.5 °C with every 1% decrease in
homology (Bonner *et al.*, *J. Mol. Biol.* 81, 123 (1973). Variants of human
transmembrane serine protease polynucleotides or transmembrane serine protease
polynucleotides of other species can therefore be identified, for example, by
hybridizing a putative homologous transmembrane serine protease polynucleotide
15 with a polynucleotide having a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:11 to form a test
hybrid. The melting temperature of the test hybrid is compared with the melting
temperature of a hybrid comprising transmembrane serine protease polynucleotides
having perfectly complementary nucleotide sequences, and the number or percent of
basepair mismatches within the test hybrid is calculated.

20 Nucleotide sequences which hybridize to transmembrane serine protease
polynucleotides or their complements following stringent hybridization and/or wash
conditions are also transmembrane serine protease polynucleotides. Stringent wash
conditions are well known and understood in the art and are disclosed, for example,
in Sambrook *et al.*, MOLECULAR CLONING: A LABORATORY MANUAL, 2d ed., 1989, at
25 pages 9.50-9.51.

Typically, for stringent hybridization conditions a combination of temperature and
salt concentration should be chosen that is approximately 12-20 °C below the
calculated T_m of the hybrid under study. The T_m of a hybrid between an
30 transmembrane serine protease polynucleotide having a coding sequence disclosed

herein and a polynucleotide sequence which is at least about 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, preferably about 75, 90, 96, or 98% identical to that nucleotide sequence can be calculated, for example, using the equation of Bolton and McCarthy, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* 48, 1390 (1962):

5

$$T_m = 81.5^{\circ}\text{C} - 16.6(\log_{10} [\text{Na}^+]) + 0.41(\%G + C) - 0.63(\%\text{formamide}) - 600/l,$$

where l = the length of the hybrid in basepairs.

- 10 Stringent wash conditions include, for example, 4X SSC at 65 °C, or 50% formamide, 4X SSC at 42 °C, or 0.5X SSC, 0.1% SDS at 65 °C. Highly stringent wash conditions include, for example, 0.2X SSC at 65 °C.

Preparation of Polynucleotides

- 15 A naturally occurring transmembrane serine protease polynucleotide can be isolated free of other cellular components such as membrane components, proteins, and lipids. Polynucleotides can be made by a cell and isolated using standard nucleic acid purification techniques, synthesized using an amplification technique, such as the polymerase chain reaction (PCR), or synthesized using an automatic synthesizer.
- 20 Methods for isolating polynucleotides are routine and are known in the art. Any such technique for obtaining a polynucleotide can be used to obtain isolated transmembrane serine protease polynucleotides. For example, restriction enzymes and probes can be used to isolate polynucleotide fragments which comprise transmembrane serine protease nucleotide sequences. Isolated polynucleotides are in
- 25 preparations which are free or at least 70, 80, or 90% free of other molecules.

Transmembrane serine protease cDNA molecules can be made with standard molecular biology techniques, using transmembrane serine protease mRNA as a template. Transmembrane serine protease cDNA molecules can thereafter be

30 replicated using molecular biology techniques known in the art and disclosed in

manuals such as Sambrook *et al.* (1989). An amplification technique, such as PCR, can be used to obtain additional copies of transmembrane serine protease polynucleotides, using either human genomic DNA or cDNA as a template.

- 5 Alternatively, synthetic chemistry techniques can be used to synthesize transmembrane serine protease polynucleotides. The degeneracy of the genetic code allows alternate nucleotide sequences to be synthesized which will encode an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide having, for example, the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:12 or a biologically active variant of that sequence.

10

Extending Polynucleotides

- Various PCR-based methods can be used to extend the nucleic acid sequences encoding the disclosed portions of human transmembrane serine protease to detect upstream sequences such as promoters and regulatory elements. For example,
- 15 restriction-site PCR uses universal primers to retrieve unknown sequence adjacent to a known locus (Sarkar, *PCR Methods Applic.* 2, 318-322, 1993). Genomic DNA is first amplified in the presence of a primer to a linker sequence and a primer specific to the known region. The amplified sequences are then subjected to a second round of PCR with the same linker primer and another specific primer internal to the first
- 20 one. Products of each round of PCR are transcribed with an appropriate RNA polymerase and sequenced using reverse transcriptase.

- Inverse PCR also can be used to amplify or extend sequences using divergent primers based on a known region (Triglia *et al.*, *Nucleic Acids Res.* 16, 8186, 1988). Primers
- 25 can be designed using commercially available software, such as OLIGO 4.06 Primer Analysis software (National Biosciences Inc., Plymouth, Minn.), to be 22-30 nucleotides in length, to have a GC content of 50% or more, and to anneal to the target sequence at temperatures about 68 - 72 °C. The method uses several restriction enzymes to generate a suitable fragment in the known region of a gene. The
- 30 fragment is then circularized by intramolecular ligation and used as a PCR template.

Another method which can be used is capture PCR, which involves PCR amplification of DNA fragments adjacent to a known sequence in human and yeast artificial chromosome DNA (Lagerstrom *et al.*, *PCR Methods Applic. 1*, 111-119, 5 1991). In this method, multiple restriction enzyme digestions and ligations are used to place an engineered double-stranded sequence into an unknown fragment of the DNA molecule before performing PCR.

Another method which can be used to retrieve unknown sequences is that of Parker 10 *et al.*, *Nucleic Acids Res. 19*, 3055-3060, 1991. Additionally, PCR, nested primers, and PROMOTERFINDER libraries (CLONTECH, Palo Alto, Calif.) can be used to walk genomic DNA. This process avoids the need to screen libraries and is useful in finding intron/exon junctions.

15 When screening for full-length cDNAs, it is preferable to use libraries that have been size-selected to include larger cDNAs. Also, random-primed libraries are preferable, in that they will contain more sequences which contain the 5' regions of genes. Use of a randomly primed library may be especially preferable for situations in which an oligo d(T) library does not yield a full-length cDNA. Genomic libraries can be 20 useful for extension of sequence into 5' non-transcribed regulatory regions.

Commercially available capillary electrophoresis systems can be used to analyze the size or confirm the nucleotide sequence of PCR or sequencing products. For example, capillary sequencing can employ flowable polymers for electrophoretic 25 separation, four different fluorescent dyes (one for each nucleotide) which are laser activated, and detection of the emitted wavelengths by a charge coupled device camera. Output/light intensity can be converted to electrical signal using appropriate software (*e.g.* GENOTYPER and Sequence NAVIGATOR, Perkin Elmer), and the entire process from loading of samples to computer analysis and electronic data 30 display can be computer controlled. Capillary electrophoresis is especially preferable

for the sequencing of small pieces of DNA which might be present in limited amounts in a particular sample.

Obtaining Polypeptides

- 5 Transmembrane serine protease polypeptides can be obtained, for example, by purification from cells, by expression of transmembrane serine protease polynucleotides, or by direct chemical synthesis.

Protein Purification

- 10 Transmembrane serine protease polypeptides can be purified from cells, such as primary tumor cells, metastatic cells, or cancer cell lines (e.g., colon cancer cell lines HCT116, DLD1, HT29, Caco2, SW837, SW480, and RKO, breast cancer cell lines 21-PT, 21-MT, MDA-468, SK-BR3, and BT-474, the A549 lung cancer cell line, or the H392 glioblastoma cell line), as well as cells transfected with an transmembrane
15 serine protease expression construct. Placenta, breast, colon, and ovarian tumor are especially useful sources of transmembrane serine protease polypeptides. A purified transmembrane serine protease polypeptide is separated from other compounds which normally associate with the transmembrane serine protease polypeptide in the cell, such as certain proteins, carbohydrates, or lipids, using methods well-known in
20 the art. Such methods include, but are not limited to, size exclusion chromatography, ammonium sulfate fractionation, ion exchange chromatography, affinity chromatography, and preparative gel electrophoresis. A preparation of purified transmembrane serine protease polypeptides is at least 80% pure; preferably, the preparations are 90%, 95%, or 99% pure. Purity of the preparations can be assessed
25 by any means known in the art, such as SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis. Enzymatic activity of the purified preparations can be assayed, for example, as described in Example 2.

Expression of Polynucleotides

To express a transmembrane serine protease polypeptide, an transmembrane serine protease polynucleotide can be inserted into an expression vector which contains the
5 necessary elements for the transcription and translation of the inserted coding sequence. Methods which are well known to those skilled in the art can be used to construct expression vectors containing sequences encoding transmembrane serine protease polypeptides and appropriate transcriptional and translational control elements. These methods include *in vitro* recombinant DNA techniques, synthetic
10 techniques, and *in vivo* genetic recombination. Such techniques are described, for example, in Sambrook *et al.* (1989) and Ausubel *et al.*, CURRENT PROTOCOLS IN MOLECULAR BIOLOGY, John Wiley & Sons, New York, N.Y, 1989.

A variety of expression vector/host systems can be utilized to contain and express
15 sequences encoding an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide. These include, but are not limited to, microorganisms, such as bacteria transformed with recombinant bacteriophage, plasmid, or cosmid DNA expression vectors; yeast transformed with yeast expression vectors, insect cell systems infected with virus expression vectors (*e.g.*, baculovirus), plant cell systems transformed with virus
20 expression vectors (*e.g.*, cauliflower mosaic virus, CaMV; tobacco mosaic virus, TMV) or with bacterial expression vectors (*e.g.*, Ti or pBR322 plasmids), or animal cell systems.

The control elements or regulatory sequences are those non-translated regions of the
25 vector -- enhancers, promoters, 5' and 3' untranslated regions -- which interact with host cellular proteins to carry out transcription and translation. Such elements can vary in their strength and specificity. Depending on the vector system and host utilized, any number of suitable transcription and translation elements, including constitutive and inducible promoters, can be used. For example, when cloning in
30 bacterial systems, inducible promoters such as the hybrid lacZ promoter of the

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BLUESCRIPT phagemid (Stratagene, LaJolla, Calif.) or pSPORT1 plasmid (Life Technologies) and the like can be used. The baculovirus polyhedrin promoter can be used in insect cells. Promoters or enhancers derived from the genomes of plant cells (e.g., heat shock, RUBISCO, and storage protein genes) or from plant viruses (e.g., viral promoters or leader sequences) can be cloned into the vector. In mammalian cell systems, promoters from mammalian genes or from mammalian viruses are preferable. If it is necessary to generate a cell line that contains multiple copies of a nucleotide sequence encoding an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide, vectors based on SV40 or EBV can be used with an appropriate selectable marker.

Bacterial and Yeast Expression Systems

In bacterial systems, a number of expression vectors can be selected depending upon the use intended for the transmembrane serine protease polypeptide. For example, when a large quantity of an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide is needed for the induction of antibodies, vectors which direct high level expression of fusion proteins that are readily purified can be used. Such vectors include, but are not limited to, multifunctional *E. coli* cloning and expression vectors such as BLUESCRIPT (Stratagene), in which the sequence encoding the transmembrane serine protease polypeptide can be ligated into the vector in frame with sequences for the amino-terminal Met and the subsequent 7 residues of β -galactosidase so that a hybrid protein is produced. pIN vectors (Van Heeke & Schuster, *J. Biol. Chem.* 264, 5503-5509, 1989 or pGEX vectors (Promega, Madison, Wis.) can be used to express foreign polypeptides as fusion proteins with glutathione S-transferase (GST). In general, such fusion proteins are soluble and can easily be purified from lysed cells by adsorption to glutathione-agarose beads followed by elution in the presence of free glutathione. Proteins made in such systems can be designed to include heparin, thrombin, or Factor Xa protease cleavage sites so that the cloned polypeptide of interest can be released from the GST moiety at will.

In the yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, a number of vectors containing constitutive or inducible promoters such as alpha factor, alcohol oxidase, and PGH can be used. For reviews, see Ausubel *et al.* (1989) and Grant *et al.*, *Methods Enzymol.* 153, 516-544, 1987.

5

Plant and Insect Expression Systems

- If plant expression vectors are used, the expression of sequences encoding transmembrane serine protease polypeptides can be driven by any of a number of promoters. For example, viral promoters such as the 35S and 19S promoters of
- 10 CaMV can be used alone or in combination with the omega leader sequence from TMV (Takamatsu *EMBO J.* 6, 307-311, 1987). Alternatively, plant promoters such as the small subunit of RUBISCO or heat shock promoters can be used (Coruzzi *et al.*, *EMBO J.* 3, 1671-1680, 1984; Broglie *et al.*, *Science* 224, 838-843, 1984; Winter
- 15 *et al.*, *Results Probl. Cell Differ.* 17, 85-105, 1991). These constructs can be introduced into plant cells by direct DNA transformation or by pathogen-mediated transfection. Such techniques are described in a number of generally available reviews (see, for example, Hobbs or Murray, in MCGRAW HILL YEARBOOK OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, McGraw Hill, New York, N.Y., pp. 191-196, 1992).
- 20 An insect system also can be used to express an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide. For example, in one such system *Autographa californica* nuclear polyhedrosis virus (AcNPV) is used as a vector to express foreign genes in *Spodoptera frugiperda* cells or in *Trichoplusia* larvae. Sequences encoding transmembrane serine protease polypeptides can be cloned into a non-essential
- 25 region of the virus, such as the polyhedrin gene, and placed under control of the polyhedrin promoter. Successful insertion of transmembrane serine protease polypeptides will render the polyhedrin gene inactive and produce recombinant virus lacking coat protein. The recombinant viruses can then be used to infect, for example, *S. frugiperda* cells or *Trichoplusia* larvae in which transmembrane serine

protease polypeptides can be expressed (Engelhard *et al.*, *Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci.* 91, 3224-3227, 1994).

Mammalian Expression Systems

5 A number of viral-based expression systems can be utilized in mammalian host cells. For example, if an adenovirus is used as an expression vector, sequences encoding transmembrane serine protease polypeptides can be ligated into an adenovirus transcription/translation complex consisting of the late promoter and tripartite leader sequence. Insertion in a non-essential E1 or E3 region of the viral genome can be
10 used to obtain a viable virus which is capable of expressing an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide in infected host cells (Logan & Shenk, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.* 81, 3655-3659, 1984). In addition, transcription enhancers, such as the Rous sarcoma virus (RSV) enhancer, can be used to increase expression in mammalian host cells.

15 Human artificial chromosomes (HACs) also can be used to deliver larger fragments of DNA than can be contained and expressed in a plasmid. HACs of 6M to 10M are constructed and delivered to cells via conventional delivery methods (*e.g.*, liposomes, polycationic amino polymers, or vesicles).

20 Specific initiation signals also can be used to achieve more efficient translation of sequences encoding transmembrane serine protease polypeptides. Such signals include the ATG initiation codon and adjacent sequences. In cases where sequences encoding an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide, its initiation codon, and
25 upstream sequences are inserted into the appropriate expression vector, no additional transcriptional or translational control signals may be needed. However, in cases where only coding sequence, or a fragment thereof, is inserted, exogenous translational control signals (including the ATG initiation codon) should be provided. The initiation codon should be in the correct reading frame to ensure translation of
30 the entire insert. Exogenous translational elements and initiation codons can be of

various origins, both natural and synthetic. The efficiency of expression can be enhanced by the inclusion of enhancers which are appropriate for the particular cell system which is used (see Scharf *et al.*, *Results Probl. Cell Differ.* 20, 125-162, 1994).

5

Host Cells

A host cell strain can be chosen for its ability to modulate the expression of the inserted sequences or to process an expressed transmembrane serine protease polypeptide in the desired fashion. Such modifications of the polypeptide include, but are not limited to, acetylation, carboxylation, glycosylation, phosphorylation, lipidation, and acylation. Post-translational processing which cleaves a "prepro" form of the polypeptide also can be used to facilitate correct insertion, folding and/or function. Different host cells which have specific cellular machinery and characteristic mechanisms for post-translational activities (*e.g.*, CHO, HeLa, MDCK, HEK293, and WI38), are available from the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC; 10801 University Boulevard, Manassas, VA 20110-2209) and can be chosen to ensure the correct modification and processing of the foreign protein.

Stable expression is preferred for long-term, high-yield production of recombinant proteins. For example, cell lines which stably express transmembrane serine protease polypeptides can be transformed using expression vectors which can contain viral origins of replication and/or endogenous expression elements and a selectable marker gene on the same or on a separate vector. Following the introduction of the vector, cells can be allowed to grow for 1-2 days in an enriched medium before they are switched to a selective medium. The purpose of the selectable marker is to confer resistance to selection, and its presence allows growth and recovery of cells which successfully express the introduced transmembrane serine protease sequences. Resistant clones of stably transformed cells can be proliferated using tissue culture techniques appropriate to the cell type.

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Any number of selection systems can be used to recover transformed cell lines. These include, but are not limited to, the herpes simplex virus thymidine kinase (Wigler *et al.*, *Cell* 11, 223-32, 1977) and adenine phosphoribosyltransferase (Lowy *et al.*, *Cell* 22, 817-23, 1980). Genes which can be employed in *tk* or *aprt* cells, respectively. Also, antimetabolite, antibiotic, or herbicide resistance can be used as the basis for selection. For example, *dhfr* confers resistance to methotrexate (Wigler *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.* 77, 3567-70, 1980); *npt* confers resistance to the aminoglycosides, neomycin and G-418 (Colbere-Garapin *et al.*, *J. Mol. Biol.* 150, 1-14, 1981); and *als* and *pat* confer resistance to chlorsulfuron and phosphinotricin acetyltransferase, respectively (Murray, 1992 *supra*). Additional selectable genes have been described, for example *trpB*, which allows cells to utilize indole in place of tryptophan, or *hisD*, which allows cells to utilize histinol in place of histidine (Hartman & Mulligan, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.* 85, 8047-51, 1988). Visible markers such as anthocyanins, β -glucuronidase and its substrate GUS, and luciferase and its substrate luciferin, can be used to identify transformants and to quantify the amount of transient or stable protein expression attributable to a specific vector system (Rhodes *et al.*, *Methods Mol. Biol.* 55, 121-131, 1995).

Detecting Expression of Polypeptides

Although the presence of marker gene expression suggests that the transmembrane serine protease polynucleotide is also present, its presence and expression may need to be confirmed. For example, if a sequence encoding an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide is inserted within a marker gene sequence, transformed cells containing sequences which encode an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide can be identified by the absence of marker gene function. Alternatively, a marker gene can be placed in tandem with a sequence encoding an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide under the control of a single promoter. Expression of the marker gene in response to induction or selection usually indicates expression of the transmembrane serine protease polynucleotide.

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Alternatively, host cells which contain an transmembrane serine protease polynucleotide and which express an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide can be identified by a variety of procedures known to those of skill in the art. These procedures include, but are not limited to, DNA-DNA or DNA-RNA hybridizations and protein bioassay or immunoassay techniques which include membrane, solution, or chip-based technologies for the detection and/or quantification of nucleic acid or protein.

The presence of a polynucleotide sequence encoding an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide can be detected by DNA-DNA or DNA-RNA hybridization or amplification using probes or fragments or fragments of polynucleotides encoding an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide. Nucleic acid amplification-based assays involve the use of oligonucleotides selected from sequences encoding an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide to detect transformants which contain an transmembrane serine protease polynucleotide.

A variety of protocols for detecting and measuring the expression of an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide, using either polyclonal or monoclonal antibodies specific for the polypeptide, are known in the art. Examples include enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA), radioimmunoassay (RIA), and fluorescence activated cell sorting (FACS). A two-site, monoclonal-based immunoassay using monoclonal antibodies reactive to two non-interfering epitopes on an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide can be used, or a competitive binding assay can be employed. These and other assays are described in Hampton *et al.*, SEROLOGICAL METHODS: A LABORATORY MANUAL, APS Press, St. Paul, Minn., 1990) and Maddox *et al.*, *J. Exp. Med.* 158, 1211-1216, 1983).

A wide variety of labels and conjugation techniques are known by those skilled in the art and can be used in various nucleic acid and amino acid assays. Means for producing labeled hybridization or PCR probes for detecting sequences related to

polynucleotides encoding transmembrane serine protease polypeptides include oligolabeling, nick translation, end-labeling, or PCR amplification using a labeled nucleotide. Alternatively, sequences encoding an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide can be cloned into a vector for the production of an mRNA probe. Such
5 vectors are known in the art, are commercially available, and can be used to synthesize RNA probes *in vitro* by addition of labeled nucleotides and an appropriate RNA polymerase, such as T7, T3, or SP6. These procedures can be conducted using a variety of commercially available kits (Amersham Pharmacia Biotech, Promega, and US Biochemical). Suitable reporter molecules or labels which can be used for
10 ease of detection include radionuclides, enzymes, fluorescent, chemiluminescent, or chromogenic agents, as well as substrates, cofactors, inhibitors, magnetic particles, and the like.

Expression and Purification of Polypeptides

15 Host cells transformed with nucleotide sequences encoding an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide can be cultured under conditions suitable for the expression and recovery of the protein from cell culture. The polypeptide produced by a transformed cell can be secreted or contained intracellularly depending on the sequence and/or the vector used. As will be understood by those of skill in the art, expression vectors
20 containing polynucleotides which encode transmembrane serine protease polypeptides can be designed to contain signal sequences which direct secretion of transmembrane serine protease polypeptides through a prokaryotic or eukaryotic cell membrane.

25 Other constructions can be used to join a sequence encoding an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide to a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide domain which will facilitate purification of soluble proteins. Such purification facilitating domains include, but are not limited to, metal chelating peptides such as histidine-tryptophan modules that allow purification on immobilized metals, protein
30 A domains that allow purification on immobilized immunoglobulin, and the domain

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utilized in the FLAGS extension/affinity purification system (Immunex Corp., Seattle, Wash.). The inclusion of cleavable linker sequences such as those specific for Factor Xa or enterokinase (Invitrogen, San Diego, CA) between the purification domain and the transmembrane serine protease polypeptide can be used to facilitate purification. One such expression vector provides for expression of a fusion protein containing an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide and 6 histidine residues preceding a thioredoxin or an enterokinase cleavage site. The histidine residues facilitate purification on IMAC (immobilized metal ion affinity chromatography as described in Porath *et al.*, *Prot. Exp. Purif.* 3, 263-281, 1992), while the enterokinase cleavage site provides a means for purifying the transmembrane serine protease polypeptide from the fusion protein. Vectors which contain fusion proteins are disclosed in Kroll *et al.*, *DNA Cell Biol.* 12, 441-453, 1993).

Chemical Synthesis

Sequences encoding an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide can be synthesized, in whole or in part, using chemical methods well known in the art (see Caruthers *et al.*, *Nucl. Acids Res. Symp. Ser.* 215-223, 1980; Horn *et al.* *Nucl. Acids Res. Symp. Ser.* 225-232, 1980). Alternatively, an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide itself can be produced using chemical methods to synthesize its amino acid sequence. For example, transmembrane serine protease polypeptides can be produced by direct peptide synthesis using solid-phase techniques (Merrifield, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 85, 2149-2154, 1963; Roberge *et al.*, *Science* 269, 202-204, 1995). Protein synthesis can be performed using manual techniques or by automation. Automated synthesis can be achieved, for example, using Applied Biosystems 431A Peptide Synthesizer (Perkin Elmer). Various fragments of transmembrane serine protease polypeptides can be separately synthesized and combined using chemical methods to produce a full-length molecule.

The newly synthesized peptide can be substantially purified by preparative high performance liquid chromatography (*e.g.*, Creighton, *PROTEINS: STRUCTURES AND*

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MOLECULAR PRINCIPLES, WH Freeman and Co., New York, N.Y., 1983). The composition of a synthetic transmembrane serine protease polypeptide can be confirmed by amino acid analysis or sequencing (*e.g.*, the Edman degradation procedure; *see* Creighton, *supra*). Additionally, any portion of the amino acid
5 sequence of the transmembrane serine protease polypeptide can be altered during direct synthesis and/or combined using chemical methods with sequences from other proteins to produce a variant polypeptide or a fusion protein.

Production of Altered Polypeptides

10 As will be understood by those of skill in the art, it may be advantageous to produce transmembrane serine protease polypeptide-encoding nucleotide sequences possessing non-naturally occurring codons. For example, codons preferred by a particular prokaryotic or eukaryotic host can be selected to increase the rate of protein expression or to produce an RNA transcript having desirable properties, such
15 as a half-life which is longer than that of a transcript generated from the naturally occurring sequence.

The nucleotide sequences disclosed herein can be engineered using methods generally known in the art to alter transmembrane serine protease polypeptide-
20 encoding sequences for a variety of reasons, including modification of the cloning, processing, and/or expression of the gene product. DNA shuffling by random fragmentation and PCR reassembly of gene fragments and synthetic oligonucleotides can be used to engineer the nucleotide sequences. For example, site-directed mutagenesis can be used to insert new restriction sites, alter glycosylation patterns,
25 change codon preference, produce splice variants, introduce mutations, and so forth.

Antibodies

Any type of antibody known in the art can be generated to bind specifically to an epitope of an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide. "Antibody" as used herein
30 includes intact immunoglobulin molecules, as well as fragments thereof, such as Fab,

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F(ab')₂, and Fv, which are capable of binding an epitope of an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide. Typically, at least 6, 8, 10, or 12 contiguous amino acids are required to form an epitope. However, epitopes which involve non-contiguous amino acids may require more, *e.g.*, at least 15, 25, or 50 amino acids.

5

An antibody which specifically binds to an epitope of an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide can be used therapeutically, as well as in immunochemical assays, including but not limited to Western blots, ELISAs, radioimmunoassays, immunohistochemical assays, immunoprecipitations, or other immunochemical assays known in the art. Various immunoassays can be used to identify antibodies having the desired specificity. Numerous protocols for competitive binding or immunoradiometric assays are well known in the art. Such immunoassays typically involve the measurement of complex formation between an immunogen and an antibody which specifically binds to the immunogen.

15

Typically, an antibody which specifically binds to an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide provides a detection signal at least 5-, 10-, or 20-fold higher than a detection signal provided with other proteins when used in an immunochemical assay. Preferably, antibodies which specifically bind to transmembrane serine protease polypeptides do not detect other proteins in immunochemical assays and can immunoprecipitate an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide from solution.

20

Transmembrane serine protease polypeptides can be used to immunize a mammal, such as a mouse, rat, rabbit, guinea pig, monkey, or human, to produce polyclonal antibodies. If desired, an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide can be conjugated to a carrier protein, such as bovine serum albumin, thyroglobulin, and keyhole limpet hemocyanin. Depending on the host species, various adjuvants can be used to increase the immunological response. Such adjuvants include, but are not limited to, Freund's adjuvant, mineral gels (*e.g.*, aluminum hydroxide), and surface active substances (*e.g.* lysolecithin, pluronic polyols, polyanions, peptides, oil

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emulsions, keyhole limpet hemocyanin, and dinitrophenol). Among adjuvants used in humans, BCG (*bacilli Calmette-Guerin*) and *Corynebacterium parvum* are especially useful.

- 5 Monoclonal antibodies which specifically bind to an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide can be prepared using any technique which provides for the production of antibody molecules by continuous cell lines in culture. These techniques include, but are not limited to, the hybridoma technique, the human B-cell hybridoma technique, and the EBV-hybridoma technique (Kohler *et al.*, *Nature* 256, 495-497, 10 1985; Kozbor *et al.*, *J. Immunol. Methods* 81, 31-42, 1985; Cote *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.* 80, 2026-2030, 1983; Cole *et al.*, *Mol. Cell Biol.* 62, 109-120, 1984).

In addition, techniques developed for the production of "chimeric antibodies," the splicing of mouse antibody genes to human antibody genes to obtain a molecule with 15 appropriate antigen specificity and biological activity, can be used (Morrison *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.* 81, 6851-6855, 1984; Neuberger *et al.*, *Nature* 312, 604-608, 1984; Takeda *et al.*, *Nature* 314, 452-454, 1985). Monoclonal and other antibodies also can be "humanized" to prevent a patient from mounting an immune response against the antibody when it is used therapeutically. Such antibodies may be 20 sufficiently similar in sequence to human antibodies to be used directly in therapy or may require alteration of a few key residues. Sequence differences between rodent antibodies and human sequences can be minimized by replacing residues which differ from those in the human sequences by site directed mutagenesis of individual residues or by grating of entire complementarity determining regions. Alternatively, 25 one can produce humanized antibodies using recombinant methods, as described in GB2188638B. Antibodies which specifically bind to an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide can contain antigen binding sites which are either partially or fully humanized, as disclosed in U.S. 5,565,332.

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Alternatively, techniques described for the production of single chain antibodies can be adapted using methods known in the art to produce single chain antibodies which specifically bind to transmembrane serine protease polypeptides. Antibodies with related specificity, but of distinct idiotypic composition, can be generated by chain
5 shuffling from random combinatorial immunoglobulin libraries (Burton, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.* 88, 11120-23, 1991).

Single-chain antibodies also can be constructed using a DNA amplification method, such as PCR, using hybridoma cDNA as a template (Thirion *et al.*, 1996, *Eur. J.*
10 *Cancer Prev.* 5, 507-11). Single-chain antibodies can be mono- or bispecific, and can be bivalent or tetravalent. Construction of tetravalent, bispecific single-chain antibodies is taught, for example, in Coloma & Morrison, 1997, *Nat. Biotechnol.* 15, 159-63. Construction of bivalent, bispecific single-chain antibodies is taught in Mallender & Voss, 1994, *J. Biol. Chem.* 269, 199-206.

15 A nucleotide sequence encoding a single-chain antibody can be constructed using manual or automated nucleotide synthesis, cloned into an expression construct using standard recombinant DNA methods, and introduced into a cell to express the coding sequence, as described below. Alternatively, single-chain antibodies can be
20 produced directly using, for example, filamentous phage technology. Verhaar *et al.*, 1995, *Int. J. Cancer* 61, 497-501; Nicholls *et al.*, 1993, *J. Immunol. Meth.* 165, 81-91.

Antibodies which specifically bind to transmembrane serine protease polypeptides
25 also can be produced by inducing *in vivo* production in the lymphocyte population or by screening immunoglobulin libraries or panels of highly specific binding reagents as disclosed in the literature (Orlandi *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.* 86, 3833-3837, 1989; Winter *et al.*, *Nature* 349, 293-299, 1991).

Other types of antibodies can be constructed and used therapeutically in methods of the invention. For example, chimeric antibodies can be constructed as disclosed in WO 93/03151. Binding proteins which are derived from immunoglobulins and which are multivalent and multispecific, such as the "diabodies" described in WO
5 94/13804, also can be prepared.

Antibodies of the invention can be purified by methods well known in the art. For example, antibodies can be affinity purified by passage over a column to which an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide is bound. The bound antibodies can then
10 be eluted from the column using a buffer with a high salt concentration.

Antisense Oligonucleotides

Antisense oligonucleotides are nucleotide sequences which are complementary to a specific DNA or RNA sequence. Once introduced into a cell, the complementary
15 nucleotides combine with natural sequences produced by the cell to form complexes and block either transcription or translation. Preferably, an antisense oligonucleotide is at least 11 nucleotides in length, but can be at least 12, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, or 50 or more nucleotides long. Longer sequences also can be used. Antisense oligonucleotide molecules can be provided in a DNA construct and introduced into a
20 cell as described above to decrease the level of transmembrane serine protease gene products in the cell.

Antisense oligonucleotides can be deoxyribonucleotides, ribonucleotides, or a combination of both. Oligonucleotides can be synthesized manually or by an
25 automated synthesizer, by covalently linking the 5' end of one nucleotide with the 3' end of another nucleotide with non-phosphodiester internucleotide linkages such as alkylphosphonates, phosphorothioates, phosphorodithioates, alkylphosphonothioates, alkylphosphonates, phosphoramidates, phosphate esters, carbamates, acetamidate, carboxymethyl esters, carbonates, and phosphate triesters. See Brown, *Meth. Mol.*

Biol. 20, 1-8, 1994; Sonveaux, *Meth. Mol. Biol. 26*, 1-72, 1994; Uhlmann *et al.*, *Chem. Rev. 90*, 543-583, 1990.

Modifications of transmembrane serine protease gene expression can be obtained by
5 designing antisense oligonucleotides which will form duplexes to the control, 5', or
regulatory regions of the transmembrane serine protease gene. Oligonucleotides
derived from the transcription initiation site, *e.g.*, between positions -10 and +10
from the start site, are preferred. Similarly, inhibition can be achieved using "triple
helix" base-pairing methodology. Triple helix pairing is useful because it causes
10 inhibition of the ability of the double helix to open sufficiently for the binding of
polymerases, transcription factors, or chaperons. Therapeutic advances using triplex
DNA have been described in the literature (*e.g.*, Gee *et al.*, in Huber & Carr,
MOLECULAR AND IMMUNOLOGIC APPROACHES, Futura Publishing Co., Mt. Kisco,
N.Y., 1994). An antisense oligonucleotide also can be designed to block translation
15 of mRNA by preventing the transcript from binding to ribosomes.

Precise complementarity is not required for successful duplex formation between an
antisense oligonucleotide and the complementary sequence of an transmembrane
serine protease polynucleotide. Antisense oligonucleotides which comprise, for
20 example, 2, 3, 4, or 5 or more stretches of contiguous nucleotides which are precisely
complementary to an transmembrane serine protease polynucleotide, each separated
by a stretch of contiguous nucleotides which are not complementary to adjacent
transmembrane serine protease nucleotides, can provide targeting specificity for
transmembrane serine protease mRNA. Preferably, each stretch of complementary
25 contiguous nucleotides is at least 4, 5, 6, 7, or 8 or more nucleotides in length. Non-
complementary intervening sequences are preferably 1, 2, 3, or 4 nucleotides in
length. One skilled in the art can easily use the calculated melting point of an
antisense-sense pair to determine the degree of mismatching which will be tolerated
between a particular antisense oligonucleotide and a particular transmembrane serine
30 protease polynucleotide sequence.

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Antisense oligonucleotides can be modified without affecting their ability to hybridize to an transmembrane serine protease polynucleotide. These modifications can be internal or at one or both ends of the antisense molecule. For example, internucleoside phosphate linkages can be modified by adding cholesteryl or diamine moieties with varying numbers of carbon residues between the amino groups and terminal ribose. Modified bases and/or sugars, such as arabinose instead of ribose, or a 3', 5'-substituted oligonucleotide in which the 3' hydroxyl group or the 5' phosphate group are substituted, also can be employed in a modified antisense oligonucleotide. These modified oligonucleotides can be prepared by methods well known in the art. See, e.g., Agrawal *et al.*, *Trends Biotechnol.* 10, 152-158, 1992; Uhlmann *et al.*, *Chem. Rev.* 90, 543-584, 1990; Uhlmann *et al.*, *Tetrahedron. Lett.* 215, 3539-3542, 1987.

15 Ribozymes

Ribozymes are RNA molecules with catalytic activity. See, e.g., Cech, *Science* 236, 1532-1539; 1987; Cech, *Ann. Rev. Biochem.* 59, 543-568; 1990, Cech, *Curr. Opin. Struct. Biol.* 2, 605-609; 1992, Couture & Stinchcomb, *Trends Genet.* 12, 510-515, 1996. Ribozymes can be used to inhibit gene function by cleaving an RNA sequence, as is known in the art (e.g., Haseloff *et al.*, U.S. Patent 5,641,673). The mechanism of ribozyme action involves sequence-specific hybridization of the ribozyme molecule to complementary target RNA, followed by endonucleolytic cleavage. Examples include engineered hammerhead motif ribozyme molecules that can specifically and efficiently catalyze endonucleolytic cleavage of specific nucleotide sequences.

The coding sequence of an transmembrane serine protease polynucleotide can be used to generate ribozymes which will specifically bind to mRNA transcribed from the transmembrane serine protease polynucleotide. Methods of designing and constructing ribozymes which can cleave other RNA molecules in trans in a highly

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sequence specific manner have been developed and described in the art (*see* Haseloff *et al. Nature* 334, 585-591, 1988). For example, the cleavage activity of ribozymes can be targeted to specific RNAs by engineering a discrete "hybridization" region into the ribozyme. The hybridization region contains a sequence complementary to
5 the target RNA and thus specifically hybridizes with the target (*see, for example, Gerlach et al., EP 321,201*).

Specific ribozyme cleavage sites within a transmembrane serine protease RNA target are initially identified by scanning the RNA molecule for ribozyme cleavage sites
10 which include the following sequences: GUA, GUU, and GUC. Once identified, short RNA sequences of between 15 and 20 ribonucleotides corresponding to the region of the transmembrane serine protease target RNA containing the cleavage site can be evaluated for secondary structural features which may render the target inoperable. The suitability of candidate targets also can be evaluated by testing
15 accessibility to hybridization with complementary oligonucleotides using ribonuclease protection assays. Longer complementary sequences can be used to increase the affinity of the hybridization sequence for the target. The hybridizing and cleavage regions of the ribozyme can be integrally related; thus, upon hybridizing to the transmembrane serine protease target RNA through the complementary regions,
20 the catalytic region of the ribozyme can cleave the target.

Ribozymes can be introduced into cells as part of a DNA construct. Mechanical methods, such as microinjection, liposome-mediated transfection, electroporation, or calcium phosphate precipitation, can be used to introduce a ribozyme-containing
25 DNA construct into cells in which it is desired to decrease transmembrane serine protease expression. Alternatively, if it is desired that the cells stably retain the DNA construct, it can be supplied on a plasmid and maintained as a separate element or integrated into the genome of the cells, as is known in the art. The DNA construct can include transcriptional regulatory elements, such as a promoter element, an

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enhancer or UAS element, and a transcriptional terminator signal, for controlling transcription of ribozymes in the cells.

As taught in Haseloff *et al.*, U.S. Patent 5,641,673, ribozymes can be engineered so that ribozyme expression will occur in response to factors which induce expression of a target gene. Ribozymes also can be engineered to provide an additional level of regulation, so that destruction of transmembrane serine protease mRNA occurs only when both a ribozyme and a target gene are induced in the cells.

10 Differentially Expressed Genes

Described herein are methods for the identification of genes whose products interact with human transmembrane serine protease. Such genes may represent genes that are differentially expressed in disorders including, but not limited to, COPD, CNS disorders, cardiovascular disorders, and cancer. Further, such genes may represent genes that are differentially regulated in response to manipulations relevant to the progression or treatment of such diseases. Additionally, such genes may have a temporally modulated expression, increased or decreased at different stages of tissue or organism development. A differentially expressed gene may also have its expression modulated under control versus experimental conditions. In addition, the human transmembrane serine protease gene or gene product may itself be tested for differential expression.

The degree to which expression differs in a normal versus a diseased state need only be large enough to be visualized via standard characterization techniques such as differential display techniques. Other such standard characterization techniques by which expression differences may be visualized include but are not limited to, quantitative RT (reverse transcriptase), PCR, and Northern analysis.

Identification of Differentially Expressed Genes

To identify differentially expressed genes total RNA or, preferably, mRNA is isolated from tissues of interest. For example, RNA samples are obtained from tissues of experimental subjects and from corresponding tissues of control subjects.

- 5 Any RNA isolation technique that does not select against the isolation of mRNA may be utilized for the purification of such RNA samples. See, for example, Ausubel *et al.*, ed., CURRENT PROTOCOLS IN MOLECULAR BIOLOGY, John Wiley & Sons, Inc. New York, 1987-1993. Large numbers of tissue samples may readily be processed using techniques well known to those of skill in the art, such as, for example, the
- 10 single-step RNA isolation process of Chomczynski, U.S. Patent 4,843,155.

Transcripts within the collected RNA samples that represent RNA produced by differentially expressed genes are identified by methods well known to those of skill in the art. They include, for example, differential screening (Tedder *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* 85, 208-12, 1988), subtractive hybridization (Hedrick *et al.*, *Nature* 308, 149-53; Lee *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* 88, 2825, 1984), and differential display (Liang & Pardee, *Science* 257, 967-71, 1992; U.S. Patent 5,262,311), and microarrays.

- 20 The differential expression information may itself suggest relevant methods for the treatment of disorders involving the human transmembrane serine protease. For example, treatment may include a modulation of expression of the differentially expressed genes and/or the gene encoding the human transmembrane serine protease. The differential expression information may indicate whether the expression or
- 25 activity of the differentially expressed gene or gene product or the human transmembrane serine protease gene or gene product are up-regulated or down-regulated.

Screening Methods

The invention provides methods for identifying modulators, *i.e.*, candidate or test compounds which bind to transmembrane serine protease polypeptides or polynucleotides and/or have a stimulatory or inhibitory effect on, for example,
5 expression or activity of the transmembrane serine protease polypeptide or polynucleotide, so as to regulate degradation of the extracellular matrix. Decreased extracellular matrix degradation is useful for preventing or suppressing malignant cells from metastasizing. Increased extracellular matrix degradation may be desired, for example, in developmental disorders characterized by inappropriately low levels
10 of extracellular matrix degradation or in regeneration.

The invention provides assays for screening test compounds which bind to or modulate the activity of an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide or an transmembrane serine protease polynucleotide. A test compound preferably binds to
15 an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide or polynucleotide. More preferably, a test compound decreases an transmembrane serine protease activity of an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide or expression of an transmembrane serine protease polynucleotide by at least about 10, preferably about 50, more preferably about 75, 90, or 100% relative to the absence of the test compound.

20

Test Compounds

Test compounds can be pharmacologic agents already known in the art or can be compounds previously unknown to have any pharmacological activity. The compounds can be naturally occurring or designed in the laboratory. They can be
25 isolated from microorganisms, animals, or plants, and can be produced recombinantly, or synthesized by chemical methods known in the art. If desired, test compounds can be obtained using any of the numerous combinatorial library methods known in the art, including but not limited to, biological libraries, spatially addressable parallel solid phase or solution phase libraries, synthetic library methods
30 requiring deconvolution, the "one-bead one-compound" library method, and

synthetic library methods using affinity chromatography selection. The biological library approach is limited to polypeptide libraries, while the other four approaches are applicable to polypeptide, non-peptide oligomer, or small molecule libraries of compounds. See Lam, *Anticancer Drug Des.* 12, 145, 1997.

5

Methods for the synthesis of molecular libraries are well known in the art (see, for example, DeWitt *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* 90, 6909, 1993; Erb *et al.* *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* 91, 11422, 1994; Zuckermann *et al.*, *J. Med. Chem.* 37, 2678, 1994; Cho *et al.*, *Science* 261, 1303, 1993; Carell *et al.*, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. Engl.* 33, 2059, 1994; Carell *et al.*, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. Engl.* 33, 2061; Gallop *et al.*, *J. Med. Chem.* 37, 1233, 1994). Libraries of compounds can be presented in solution (see, e.g., Houghten, *BioTechniques* 13, 412-421, 1992), or on beads (Lam, *Nature* 354, 82-84, 1991), chips (Fodor, *Nature* 364, 555-556, 1993), bacteria or spores (Ladner, U.S. Patent 5,223,409), plasmids (Cull *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* 89, 1865-1869, 1992), or phage (Scott & Smith, *Science* 249, 386-390, 1990; Devlin, *Science* 249, 404-406, 1990); Cwirla *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.* 97, 6378-6382, 1990; Felici, *J. Mol. Biol.* 222, 301-310, 1991; and Ladner, U.S. Patent 5,223,409).

15

High Throughput Screening

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Test compounds can be screened for the ability to bind to transmembrane serine protease polypeptides or polynucleotides or to affect transmembrane serine protease activity or transmembrane serine protease gene expression using high throughput screening. Using high throughput screening, many discrete compounds can be tested in parallel so that large numbers of test compounds can be quickly screened. The most widely established techniques utilize 96-well microtiter plates. The wells of the microtiter plates typically require assay volumes that range from 50 to 500 μ l. In addition to the plates, many instruments, materials, pipettors, robotics, plate washers, and plate readers are commercially available to fit the 96-well format.

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Alternatively, "free format assays," or assays that have no physical barrier between samples, can be used. For example, an assay using pigment cells (melanocytes) in a simple homogeneous assay for combinatorial peptide libraries is described by Jayawickreme *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* 19, 1614-18 (1994). The cells are
5 placed under agarose in petri dishes, then beads that carry combinatorial compounds are placed on the surface of the agarose. The combinatorial compounds are partially released the compounds from the beads. Active compounds can be visualized as dark pigment areas because, as the compounds diffuse locally into the gel matrix, the active compounds cause the cells to change colors.

10

Another example of a free format assay is described by Chelsky, "Strategies for Screening Combinatorial Libraries: Novel and Traditional Approaches," reported at the First Annual Conference of The Society for Biomolecular Screening in Philadelphia, Pa. (Nov. 7-10, 1995). Chelsky placed a simple homogenous enzyme
15 assay for carbonic anhydrase inside an agarose gel such that the enzyme in the gel would cause a color change throughout the gel. Thereafter, beads carrying combinatorial compounds via a photolinker were placed inside the gel and the compounds were partially released by UV-light. Compounds that inhibited the enzyme were observed as local zones of inhibition having less color change.

20

Yet another example is described by Salmon *et al.*, *Molecular Diversity* 2, 57-63 (1996). In this example, combinatorial libraries were screened for compounds that had cytotoxic effects on cancer cells growing in agar.

25 Another high throughput screening method is described in Beutel *et al.*, U.S. Patent 5,976,813. In this method, test samples are placed in a porous matrix. One or more assay components are then placed within, on top of, or at the bottom of a matrix such as a gel, a plastic sheet, a filter, or other form of easily manipulated solid support. When samples are introduced to the porous matrix they diffuse sufficiently slowly,
30 such that the assays can be performed without the test samples running together.

Binding Assays

For binding assays, the test compound is preferably a small molecule which binds to and occupies the active site or a fibronectin domain of the transmembrane serine protease polypeptide, thereby making the active site or fibronectin domain inaccessible to substrate such that normal biological activity is prevented. Examples of such small molecules include, but are not limited to, small peptides or peptide-like molecules. In binding assays, either the test compound or the transmembrane serine protease polypeptide can comprise a detectable label, such as a fluorescent, radioisotopic, chemiluminescent, or enzymatic label, such as horseradish peroxidase, alkaline phosphatase, or luciferase. Detection of a test compound which is bound to the transmembrane serine protease polypeptide can then be accomplished, for example, by direct counting of radioemmission, by scintillation counting, or by determining conversion of an appropriate substrate to a detectable product.

Alternatively, binding of a test compound to an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide can be determined without labeling either of the interactants. For example, a microphysiometer can be used to detect binding of a test compound with a target polypeptide. A microphysiometer (e.g., Cytosensor™) is an analytical instrument that measures the rate at which a cell acidifies its environment using a light-addressable potentiometric sensor (LAPS). Changes in this acidification rate can be used as an indicator of the interaction between a test compound and an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide. (McConnell *et al.*, *Science* 257, 1906-1912, 1992).

Determining the ability of a test compound to bind to an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide also can be accomplished using a technology such as real-time Bimolecular Interaction Analysis (BIA). Sjolander & Urbaniczky, *Anal. Chem.* 63, 2338-2345, 1991, and Szabo *et al.*, *Curr. Opin. Struct. Biol.* 5, 699-705, 1995. BIA is a technology for studying biospecific interactions in real time, without labeling any

of the interactants (*e.g.*, BIAcore™). Changes in the optical phenomenon surface plasmon resonance (SPR) can be used as an indication of real-time reactions between biological molecules.

- 5 In yet another aspect of the invention, an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide can be used as a "bait protein" in a two-hybrid assay or three-hybrid assay (see, *e.g.*, U.S. Patent 5,283,317; Zervos *et al.*, *Cell* 72, 223-232, 1993; Madura *et al.*, *J. Biol. Chem.* 268, 12046-12054, 1993; Bartel *et al.*, *BioTechniques* 14, 920-924, 1993; Iwabuchi *et al.*, *Oncogene* 8, 1693-1696, 1993; and Brent W094/10300), to identify
10 other proteins which bind to or interact with the transmembrane serine protease polypeptide and modulate its activity.

- The two-hybrid system is based on the modular nature of most transcription factors, which consist of separable DNA-binding and activation domains. Briefly, the assay
15 utilizes two different DNA constructs. For example, in one construct a polynucleotide encoding an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide is fused to a polynucleotide encoding the DNA binding domain of a known transcription factor (*e.g.*, GAL-4). In the other construct, a DNA sequence that encodes an unidentified protein ("prey" or "sample") is fused to a polynucleotide that codes for the activation
20 domain of the known transcription factor. If the "bait" and the "prey" proteins are able to interact *in vivo* to form an protein-dependent complex, the DNA-binding and activation domains of the transcription factor are brought into close proximity. This proximity allows transcription of a reporter gene (*e.g.*, LacZ), which is operably linked to a transcriptional regulatory site responsive to the transcription factor.
- 25 Expression of the reporter gene can be detected, and cell colonies containing the functional transcription factor can be isolated and used to obtain the DNA sequence encoding the protein which interacts with the transmembrane serine protease polypeptide.

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It may be desirable to immobilize either the transmembrane serine protease polypeptide (or polynucleotide) or the test compound to facilitate separation of bound from unbound forms of one or both of the interactants, as well as to accommodate automation of the assay. Thus, either the transmembrane serine protease polypeptide (or polynucleotide) or the test compound can be bound to a solid support. Suitable solid supports include, but are not limited to, glass or plastic slides, tissue culture plates, microtiter wells, tubes, silicon chips, or particles such as beads (including, but not limited to, latex, polystyrene, or glass beads). Any method known in the art can be used to attach the transmembrane serine protease polypeptide (or polynucleotide) or test compound to a solid support, including use of covalent and non-covalent linkages, passive absorption, or pairs of binding moieties attached respectively to the polypeptide or test compound and the solid support. Test compounds are preferably bound to the solid support in an array, so that the location of individual test compounds can be tracked. Binding of a test compound to an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide (or polynucleotide) can be accomplished in any vessel suitable for containing the reactants. Examples of such vessels include microtiter plates, test tubes, and microcentrifuge tubes.

In one embodiment, an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide is a fusion protein comprising a domain that allows the transmembrane serine protease polypeptide to be bound to a solid support. For example, glutathione-S-transferase fusion proteins can be adsorbed onto glutathione sepharose beads (Sigma Chemical, St. Louis, Mo.) or glutathione derivatized microtiter plates, which are then combined with the test compound or the test compound and the non-adsorbed transmembrane serine protease polypeptide; the mixture is then incubated under conditions conducive to complex formation (*e.g.*, at physiological conditions for salt and pH). Following incubation, the beads or microtiter plate wells are washed to remove any unbound components. Binding of the interactants can be determined either directly or indirectly, as described above. Alternatively, the complexes can be dissociated from the solid support before binding is determined.

Other techniques for immobilizing polypeptides or polynucleotides on a solid support also can be used in the screening assays of the invention. For example, either an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide (or polynucleotide) or a test compound can be immobilized utilizing conjugation of biotin and streptavidin. Biotinylated transmembrane serine protease polypeptides or test compounds can be prepared from biotin-NHS(N-hydroxysuccinimide) using techniques well known in the art (*e.g.*, biotinylation kit, Pierce Chemicals, Rockford, Ill.) and immobilized in the wells of streptavidin-coated 96 well plates (Pierce Chemical). Alternatively, antibodies which specifically bind to an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide polynucleotides, or a test compound, but which do not interfere with a desired binding site, such as the active site or a fibronectin domain of the transmembrane serine protease polypeptide, can be derivatized to the wells of the plate. Unbound target or protein can be trapped in the wells by antibody conjugation.

Methods for detecting such complexes, in addition to those described above for the GST-immobilized complexes, include immunodetection of complexes using antibodies which specifically bind to the transmembrane serine protease polypeptide (or polynucleotides) or test compound, enzyme-linked assays which rely on detecting an transmembrane serine protease activity of the transmembrane serine protease polypeptide, and SDS gel electrophoresis under non-reducing conditions.

Screening for test compounds which bind to an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide or polynucleotide also can be carried out in an intact cell. Any cell which comprises an transmembrane serine protease polynucleotide or polypeptide can be used in a cell-based assay system. An transmembrane serine protease polynucleotide can be naturally occurring in the cell or can be introduced using techniques such as those described above. Either a primary culture or an established cell line, including neoplastic cell lines such as the colon cancer cell lines HCT116, DLD1, HT29, Caco2, SW837, SW480, and RKO, breast cancer cell lines 21-PT, 21-

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MT, MDA-468, SK-BR3, and BT-474, the A549 lung cancer cell line, and the H392 glioblastoma cell line, can be used. An intact cell is contacted with a test compound. Binding of the test compound to an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide or polynucleotide is determined as described above, after lysing the cell to release the

5 transmembrane serine protease polypeptide-test compound complex.

Enzyme Assays

Test compounds can be tested for the ability to increase or decrease an transmembrane serine protease activity of an transmembrane serine protease

10 polypeptide. Transmembrane serine protease activity can be measured, for example, using the method described in Example 2. Transmembrane serine protease activity can be measured after contacting either a purified transmembrane serine protease polypeptide, a cell extract, or an intact cell with a test compound. A test compound which decreases transmembrane serine protease activity by at least about 10,

15 preferably about 50, more preferably about 75, 90, or 100% is identified as a potential therapeutic agent for decreasing extracellular matrix degradation. A test compound which increases transmembrane serine protease activity by at least about 10, preferably about 50, more preferably about 75, 90, or 100% is identified as a potential therapeutic agent for increasing extracellular matrix degradation.

20

Gene Expression

In another embodiment, test compounds which increase or decrease transmembrane serine protease gene expression are identified. An transmembrane serine protease polynucleotide is contacted with a test compound, and the expression of an RNA or

25 polypeptide product of the transmembrane serine protease polynucleotide is determined. The level of expression of transmembrane serine protease mRNA or polypeptide in the presence of the test compound is compared to the level of expression of transmembrane serine protease mRNA or polypeptide in the absence of the test compound. The test compound can then be identified as a modulator of

30 expression based on ~~this~~ comparison. For example, when expression of

transmembrane serine protease mRNA or polypeptide is greater in the presence of the test compound than in its absence, the test compound is identified as a stimulator or enhancer of transmembrane serine protease mRNA or polypeptide expression. Alternatively, when expression of the mRNA or protein is less in the presence of the test compound than in its absence, the test compound is identified as an inhibitor of transmembrane serine protease mRNA or polypeptide expression.

The level of transmembrane serine protease mRNA or polypeptide expression in the cells can be determined by methods well known in the art for detecting mRNA or protein. Either qualitative or quantitative methods can be used. The presence of polypeptide products of an transmembrane serine protease polynucleotide can be determined, for example, using a variety of techniques known in the art, including immunochemical methods such as radioimmunoassay, Western blotting, and immunohistochemistry. Alternatively, polypeptide synthesis can be determined *in vivo*, in a cell culture, or in an *in vitro* translation system by detecting incorporation of labeled amino acids into an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide.

Such screening can be carried out either in a cell-free assay system or in an intact cell. Any cell which expresses an transmembrane serine protease polynucleotide can be used in a cell-based assay system. The transmembrane serine protease polynucleotide can be naturally occurring in the cell or can be introduced using techniques such as those described above. Either a primary culture or an established cell line, including neoplastic cell lines such as the colon cancer cell lines HCT116, DLD1, HT29, Caco2, SW837, SW480, and RKO, breast cancer cell lines 21-PT, 21-MT, MDA-468, SK-BR3, and BT-474, the A549 lung cancer cell line, and the H392 glioblastoma cell line, can be used.

Pharmaceutical Compositions

The invention also provides pharmaceutical compositions which can be administered to a patient to achieve a therapeutic effect. Pharmaceutical compositions of the

invention can comprise an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide, transmembrane serine protease polynucleotide, antibodies which specifically bind to an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide, or mimetics, agonists, antagonists, or inhibitors of an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide. The compositions can
5 be administered alone or in combination with at least one other agent, such as stabilizing compound, which can be administered in any sterile, biocompatible pharmaceutical carrier, including, but not limited to, saline, buffered saline, dextrose, and water. The compositions can be administered to a patient alone, or in combination with other agents, drugs or hormones.

10

In addition to the active ingredients, these pharmaceutical compositions can contain suitable pharmaceutically-acceptable carriers comprising excipients and auxiliaries which facilitate processing of the active compounds into preparations which can be used pharmaceutically. Pharmaceutical compositions of the invention can be
15 administered by any number of routes including, but not limited to, oral, intravenous, intramuscular, intra-arterial, intramedullary, intrathecal, intraventricular, transdermal, subcutaneous, intraperitoneal, intranasal, parenteral, topical, sublingual, or rectal means. Pharmaceutical compositions for oral administration can be formulated using pharmaceutically acceptable carriers well known in the art in dosages suitable for
20 oral administration. Such carriers enable the pharmaceutical compositions to be formulated as tablets, pills, dragees, capsules, liquids, gels, syrups, slurries, suspensions, and the like, for ingestion by the patient.

Pharmaceutical preparations for oral use can be obtained through combination of
25 active compounds with solid excipient, optionally grinding a resulting mixture, and processing the mixture of granules, after adding suitable auxiliaries, if desired, to obtain tablets or dragee cores. Suitable excipients are carbohydrate or protein fillers, such as sugars, including lactose, sucrose, mannitol, or sorbitol; starch from corn, wheat, rice, potato, or other plants; cellulose, such as methyl cellulose,
30 hydroxypropylmethyl-cellulose, or sodium carboxymethylcellulose; gums including arabic and tragacanth; and proteins such as gelatin and collagen. If desired,

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disintegrating or solubilizing agents can be added, such as the cross-linked polyvinyl pyrrolidone, agar, alginic acid, or a salt thereof, such as sodium alginate.

Dragee cores can be used in conjunction with suitable coatings, such as concentrated
5 sugar solutions, which also can contain gum arabic, talc, polyvinylpyrrolidone, carbopol gel, polyethylene glycol, and/or titanium dioxide, lacquer solutions, and suitable organic solvents or solvent mixtures. Dyestuffs or pigments can be added to the tablets or dragee coatings for product identification or to characterize the quantity of active compound, *i.e.*, dosage.

10

Pharmaceutical preparations which can be used orally include push-fit capsules made of gelatin, as well as soft, sealed capsules made of gelatin and a coating, such as glycerol or sorbitol. Push-fit capsules can contain active ingredients mixed with a
15 filler or binders, such as lactose or starches, lubricants, such as talc or magnesium stearate, and, optionally, stabilizers. In soft capsules, the active compounds can be dissolved or suspended in suitable liquids, such as fatty oils, liquid, or liquid polyethylene glycol with or without stabilizers.

Pharmaceutical formulations suitable for parenteral administration can be formulated
20 in aqueous solutions, preferably in physiologically compatible buffers such as Hanks' solution, Ringer's solution, or physiologically buffered saline. Aqueous injection suspensions can contain substances which increase the viscosity of the suspension, such as sodium carboxymethyl cellulose, sorbitol, or dextran. Additionally, suspensions of the active compounds can be prepared as appropriate oily injection
25 suspensions. Suitable lipophilic solvents or vehicles include fatty oils such as sesame oil, or synthetic fatty acid esters, such as ethyl oleate or triglycerides, or liposomes. Non-lipid polycationic amino polymers also can be used for delivery. Optionally, the suspension also can contain suitable stabilizers or agents which increase the solubility of the compounds to allow for the preparation of highly concentrated
30 solutions. For topical or nasal administration, penetrants appropriate to the particular

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barrier to be permeated are used in the formulation. Such penetrants are generally known in the art.

The pharmaceutical compositions of the present invention can be manufactured in a manner that is known in the art, e.g., by means of conventional mixing, dissolving, granulating, dragee-making, levigating, emulsifying, encapsulating, entrapping, or lyophilizing processes. The pharmaceutical composition can be provided as a salt and can be formed with many acids, including but not limited to, hydrochloric, sulfuric, acetic, lactic, tartaric, malic, succinic, etc. Salts tend to be more soluble in aqueous or other protonic solvents than are the corresponding free base forms. In other cases, the preferred preparation can be a lyophilized powder which can contain any or all of the following: 1-50 mM histidine, 0.1%-2% sucrose, and 2-7% mannitol, at a pH range of 4.5 to 5.5, that is combined with buffer prior to use.

Further details on techniques for formulation and administration can be found in the latest edition of REMINGTON'S PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES (Maack Publishing Co., Easton, Pa.). After pharmaceutical compositions have been prepared, they can be placed in an appropriate container and labeled for treatment of an indicated condition. Such labeling would include amount, frequency, and method of administration.

Therapeutic Indications and Methods

1. Tumor Cell Invasion and Metastasis. Cancer is a disease fundamentally caused by oncogenic cellular transformation. There are several hallmarks of transformed cells that distinguish them from their normal counterparts and underlie the pathophysiology of cancer. These include uncontrolled cellular proliferation, unresponsiveness to normal death-inducing signals (immortalization), increased cellular motility and invasiveness, increased ability to recruit blood supply through induction of new blood vessel formation (angiogenesis), genetic instability, and dysregulated gene expression. Various combinations of these aberrant physiologies,

along with the acquisition of drug-resistance frequently lead to an intractable disease state in which organ failure and patient death ultimately ensue.

5 Most standard cancer therapies target cellular proliferation and rely on the differential proliferative capacities between transformed and normal cells for their efficacy. This approach is hindered by the facts that several important normal cell types are also highly proliferative and that cancer cells frequently become resistant to these agents. Thus, the therapeutic indices for traditional anti-cancer therapies rarely exceed 2.0.

10 The advent of genomics-driven molecular target identification has opened up the possibility of identifying new cancer-specific targets for therapeutic intervention that will provide safer, more effective treatments for cancer patients. Thus, newly discovered tumor-associated genes and their products can be tested for their role(s) in
15 disease and used as tools to discover and develop innovative therapies. Genes playing important roles in any of the physiological processes outlined above can be characterized as cancer targets.

20 Genes or gene fragments identified through genomics can readily be expressed in one or more heterologous expression systems to produce functional recombinant proteins. These proteins are characterized *in vitro* for their biochemical properties and then used as tools in high-throughput molecular screening programs to identify chemical modulators of their biochemical activities. Agonists and/or antagonists of target protein activity can be identified in this manner and subsequently tested in cellular
25 and *in vivo* disease models for anti-cancer activity. Optimization of lead compounds with iterative testing in biological models and detailed pharmacokinetic and toxicological analyses form the basis for drug development and subsequent testing in humans.

The human transmembrane serine protease gene provides a therapeutic target for decreasing extracellular matrix degradation, in particular for treating or preventing metastatic cancer. For example, blocking a fibronectin domain of human ephrin-like serine protease can suppress or prevent migration or metastasis of tumor cells in response to fibronectin (9, 10). Cancers whose metastasis can be suppressed according to the invention include adenocarcinoma, melanoma, cancers of the adrenal gland, bladder, bone, breast, cervix, gall bladder, liver, lung, ovary, pancreas, prostate, testis, and uterus. Circulating tumor cells arrested in the capillary beds of different organs must invade the endothelial cell lining and degrade its underlying basement membrane (BM) in order to invade into the extravascular tissue(s) where they establish metastasis (1, 2). Metastatic tumor cells often attach at or near the intercellular junctions between adjacent endothelial cells. Such attachment of the metastatic cells is followed by rupture of the junctions, retraction of the endothelial cell borders and migration through the breach in the endothelium toward the exposed underlying BM (1, 11).

Once located between endothelial cells and the BM, the invading cells must degrade the subendothelial glycoproteins and proteoglycans of the BM in order to migrate out of the vascular compartment. Several cellular enzymes (e.g., collagenase IV, plasminogen activator, cathepsin B, elastase) are thought to be involved in degradation of BM (2, 11). Suppression of human transmembrane serine protease activity therefore can be used to suppress tumor cell invasion and metastasis.

2. Tumor Angiogenesis. Basic fibroblast growth factor (bFGF) has been extracted from the subendothelial extracellular matrix produced *in vitro* (3) and from basement membranes of the cornea (4), suggesting that extracellular matrix may serve as a reservoir for bFGF. Immunohistochemical staining revealed the localization of bFGF in basement membranes of diverse tissues and blood vessels (5). Despite the ubiquitous presence of bFGF in normal tissues, endothelial cell proliferation in these tissues is usually very low, which suggests that bFGF is somehow sequestered from

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its site of action. It is possible, therefore, that suppression of human transmembrane serine protease activity can suppress release of active bFGF from extracellular matrix and basement membranes. In addition, displacement of bFGF from its storage within basement membranes and extracellular matrix may therefore provide a novel
5 mechanism for induction of neovascularization in normal and pathological situations. Restriction of endothelial cell growth factors in the extracellular matrix may prevent their systemic action on the vascular endothelium, thus maintaining a very low rate of endothelial cells turnover and vessel growth. On the other hand, release of bFGF from storage in the extracellular matrix may elicit localized endothelial cell
10 proliferation and neovascularization in processes such as wound healing, inflammation and tumor development (6, 7).

3. Inflammation and Cellular Immunity. Transmembrane serine protease activity may be involved in the ability of activated cells of the immune system to leave the
15 circulation and elicit both inflammatory and autoimmune responses. Thus, inflammation and cellular immunity may be regulated by regulating activity of transmembrane serine protease.

4. Viral infection. Removal of the cell surface components by transmembrane serine
20 protease may influence the ability of viruses to attach to the cell surface. Regulation of transmembrane serine protease may therefore be used to treat viral infections.

5. Neurodegenerative diseases. It is also possible that transmembrane serine
25 protease activity can be used to degrade, for example, prion protein amyloid plaques of Genstmann-Straussler Syndrome, Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, and Scrapie.

CNS disorders which may be treated include brain injuries, cerebrovascular diseases and their consequences, Parkinson's disease, corticobasal degeneration, motor neuron disease, dementia, including ALS, multiple sclerosis, traumatic brain injury, stroke,
30 post-stroke, post-traumatic brain injury, and small-vessel cerebrovascular disease.

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Dementias, such as Alzheimer's disease, vascular dementia, dementia with Lewy bodies, frontotemporal dementia and Parkinsonism linked to chromosome 17, frontotemporal dementias, including Pick's disease, progressive nuclear palsy, corticobasal degeneration, Huntington's disease, thalamic degeneration, Creutzfeld-Jakob dementia, HIV dementia, schizophrenia with dementia, and Korsakoff's psychosis also can be treated. Similarly, it may be possible to treat cognitive-related disorders, such as mild cognitive impairment, age-associated memory impairment, age-related cognitive decline, vascular cognitive impairment, attention deficit disorders, attention deficit hyperactivity disorders, and memory disturbances in children with learning disabilities, by regulating the activity of human transmembrane serine protease.

Pain that is associated with CNS disorders also can be treated by regulating the activity of human transmembrane serine protease. Pain which can be treated includes that associated with central nervous system disorders, such as multiple sclerosis, spinal cord injury, sciatica, failed back surgery syndrome, traumatic brain injury, epilepsy, Parkinson's disease, post-stroke, and vascular lesions in the brain and spinal cord (*e.g.*, infarct, hemorrhage, vascular malformation). Non-central neuropathic pain includes that associated with post mastectomy pain, reflex sympathetic dystrophy (RSD), trigeminal neuralgioradioculopathy, post-surgical pain, HIV/AIDS related pain, cancer pain, metabolic neuropathies (*e.g.*, diabetic neuropathy, vasculitic neuropathy secondary to connective tissue disease), paraneoplastic polyneuropathy associated, for example, with carcinoma of lung, or leukemia, or lymphoma, or carcinoma of prostate, colon or stomach, trigeminal neuralgia, cranial neuralgias, and post-herpetic neuralgia. Pain associated with cancer and cancer treatment also can be treated, as can headache pain (for example, migraine with aura, migraine without aura, and other migraine disorders), episodic and chronic tension-type headache, tension-type like headache, cluster headache, and chronic paroxysmal hemicrania.

30

6. Restenosis and Atherosclerosis. Proliferation of arterial smooth muscle cells (SMCs) in response to endothelial injury and accumulation of cholesterol rich lipoproteins are basic events in the pathogenesis of atherosclerosis and restenosis (8). It is possible that transmembrane serine protease may be involved in the catabolic pathway that may allow substantial cellular and interstitial accumulation of cholesterol rich lipoproteins. The latter pathway is expected to be highly atherogenic by promoting accumulation of apoB and apoE rich lipoproteins (*i.e.* LDL, VLDL, chylomicrons), independent of feedback inhibition by the cellular sterol content. Altered levels of human transmembrane serine protease activity therefore may inhibit both SMC proliferation and lipid accumulation and thus may halt the progression of restenosis and atherosclerosis.

7. COPD. Chronic obstructive pulmonary (or airways) disease (COPD) is a condition defined physiologically as airflow obstruction that generally results from a mixture of emphysema and peripheral airway obstruction due to chronic bronchitis (Senior & Shapiro, *Pulmonary Diseases and Disorders*, 3d ed., New York, McGraw-Hill, 1998, pp. 659-681, 1998; Barnes, *Chest* 117, 10S-14S, 2000). Emphysema is characterized by destruction of alveolar walls leading to abnormal enlargement of the air spaces of the lung. Chronic bronchitis is defined clinically as the presence of chronic productive cough for three months in each of two successive years. In COPD, airflow obstruction is usually progressive and is only partially reversible. By far the most important risk factor for development of COPD is cigarette smoking, although the disease does occur in non-smokers.

Chronic inflammation of the airways is a key pathological feature of COPD (Senior & Shapiro, 1998). The inflammatory cell population comprises increased numbers of macrophages, neutrophils, and CD8⁺ lymphocytes. Inhaled irritants, such as cigarette smoke, activate macrophages which are resident in the respiratory tract, as well as epithelial cells leading to release of chemokines (*e.g.*, interleukin-8) and other chemotactic factors. These chemotactic factors act to increase the

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neutrophil/monocyte trafficking from the blood into the lung tissue and airways. Neutrophils and monocytes recruited into the airways can release a variety of potentially damaging mediators such as proteolytic enzymes and reactive oxygen species. Matrix degradation and emphysema, along with airway wall thickening, 5 surfactant dysfunction, and mucus hypersecretion, all are potential sequelae of this inflammatory response that lead to impaired airflow and gas exchange.

COPD is characterized by damage to the lung extracellular matrix and emphysema can be viewed as the pathologic process that affects the lung parenchyma. This process eventually leads to the destruction of the airway walls resulting in permanent 10 airspace enlargement (Senior and Shapiro, in PULMONARY DISEASES AND DISORDERS, 3rd ed., New York, McGraw-Hill, 1998, pp. 659 – 681, 1998). The observation that inherited deficiency of α 1-antitrypsin (α 1-AT), the primary inhibitor of neutrophil elastase, predisposes individuals to early onset emphysema, and that 15 intrapulmonary instillation of elastolytic enzymes in experimental animals causes emphysema, led to the elastase:antielastase hypothesis for the pathogenesis of emphysema (Eriksson, *Acta Med. Scand.* 177(Suppl.), 432, 1965, Gross, *J. Occup. Med.* 6, 481-84, 1964). This in turn led to the concept that destruction of elastin in the lung parenchyma is the basis of the development of emphysema.

20

A broad range of immune and inflammatory cells including neutrophils, macrophages, T lymphocytes and eosinophils contain proteolytic enzymes that could contribute to the destruction of lung extracellular matrix (Shapiro, 1999). In addition, a number of different classes of proteases have been identified that have the 25 potential to contribute to lung matrix destruction. These include serine proteases, matrix metalloproteinases and cysteine proteases. Of these classes of enzymes, a number can hydrolyze elastin and have been shown to be elevated in COPD patients (neutrophil elastase, MMP-2, 9, 12) (Culpitt *et al.*, *Am. J. Respir. Crit. Care Med.* 160, 1635-39, 1999, Shapiro, *Am. J. Crit. Care Med.* 160 (5), S29-S32, 1999).

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It is expected that in the future novel members of the existing classes of proteases and new classes of proteases will be identified that play a significant role in the damage of the extracellular lung matrix including elastin proteolysis. Novel protease targets therefore remain very attractive therapeutic targets

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8. Other therapeutic and diagnostic indications. Anti-human transmembrane serine protease antibodies can be applied for immunodetection and diagnosis of micrometastases, autoimmune lesions, and renal failure in biopsy specimens, plasma samples, and body fluids. Alternatively, if desired an transmembrane serine protease function can be supplied to a cell by introducing an transmembrane serine protease-encoding polynucleotide into the cell.

10

The invention further pertains to the use of novel agents identified by the screening assays described above. Accordingly, it is within the scope of this invention to use a test compound identified as described herein in an appropriate animal model. For example, an agent identified as described herein (e.g., a modulating agent, an antisense nucleic acid molecule, a specific antibody, ribozyme, or a polypeptide-binding partner) can be used in an animal model to determine the efficacy, toxicity, or side effects of treatment with such an agent. Alternatively, an agent identified as described herein can be used in an animal model to determine the mechanism of action of such an agent. Furthermore, this invention pertains to uses of novel agents identified by the above-described screening assays for treatments as described herein.

15

20

- 25 A reagent which affects transmembrane serine protease activity can be administered to a human cell, either *in vitro* or *in vivo*, to reduce transmembrane serine protease activity. The reagent preferably binds to an expression product of a human transmembrane serine protease gene. If the expression product is a polypeptide, the reagent is preferably an antibody. For treatment of human cells *ex vivo*, an antibody can be added to a preparation of stem cells which have been removed from the body.

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The cells can then be replaced in the same or another human body, with or without clonal propagation, as is known in the art.

In one embodiment, the reagent is delivered using a liposome. Preferably, the liposome is stable in the animal into which it has been administered for at least about 30 minutes, more preferably for at least about 1 hour, and even more preferably for at least about 24 hours. A liposome comprises a lipid composition that is capable of targeting a reagent, particularly a polynucleotide, to a particular site in an animal, such as a human. Preferably, the lipid composition of the liposome is capable of targeting to a specific organ of an animal, such as the lung or liver.

A liposome useful in the present invention comprises a lipid composition that is capable of fusing with the plasma membrane of the targeted cell to deliver its contents to the cell. Preferably, the transfection efficiency of a liposome is about 0.5 μg of DNA per 16 nmole of liposome delivered to about 10^6 cells, more preferably about 1.0 μg of DNA per 16 nmol of liposome delivered to about 10^6 cells, and even more preferably about 2.0 μg of DNA per 16 nmol of liposome delivered to about 10^6 cells. Preferably, a liposome is between about 100 and 500 nm, more preferably between about 150 and 450 nm, and even more preferably between about 200 and 400 nm in diameter.

Suitable liposomes for use in the present invention include those liposomes standardly used in, for example, gene delivery methods known to those of skill in the art. More preferred liposomes include liposomes having a polycationic lipid composition and/or liposomes having a cholesterol backbone conjugated to polyethylene glycol. Optionally, a liposome comprises a compound capable of targeting the liposome to a tumor cell, such as a tumor cell ligand exposed on the outer surface of the liposome.

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Complexing a liposome with a reagent such as an antisense oligonucleotide or ribozyme can be achieved using methods which are standard in the art (see, for example, U.S. Patent 5,705,151). Preferably, from about 0.1 μ g to about 10 μ g of polynucleotide is combined with about 8 nmol of liposomes, more preferably from about 0.5 μ g to about 5 μ g of polynucleotides are combined with about 8 nmol liposomes, and even more preferably about 1.0 μ g of polynucleotides is combined with about 8 nmol liposomes.

In another embodiment, antibodies can be delivered to specific tissues *in vivo* using receptor-mediated targeted delivery. Receptor-mediated DNA delivery techniques are taught in, for example, Findeis *et al.* *Trends in Biotechnol.* 11, 202-05 (1993); Chiou *et al.*, GENE THERAPEUTICS: METHODS AND APPLICATIONS OF DIRECT GENE TRANSFER (J.A. Wolff, ed.) (1994); Wu & Wu, *J. Biol. Chem.* 263, 621-24 (1988); Wu *et al.*, *J. Biol. Chem.* 269, 542-46 (1994); Zenke *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* 87, 3655-59 (1990); Wu *et al.*, *J. Biol. Chem.* 266, 338-42 (1991).

If the reagent is a single-chain antibody, polynucleotides encoding the antibody can be constructed and introduced into a cell either *ex vivo* or *in vivo* using well-established techniques including, but not limited to, transferrin-polycation-mediated DNA transfer, transfection with naked or encapsulated nucleic acids, liposome-mediated cellular fusion, intracellular transportation of DNA-coated latex beads, protoplast fusion, viral infection, electroporation, "gene gun," and DEAE- or calcium phosphate-mediated transfection.

Determination of a Therapeutically Effective Dose

The determination of a therapeutically effective dose is well within the capability of those skilled in the art. A therapeutically effective dose refers to that amount of active ingredient which increases or decreases extracellular matrix degradation relative to that which occurs in the absence of the therapeutically effective dose.

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For any compound, the therapeutically effective dose can be estimated initially either in cell culture assays or in animal models, usually mice, rabbits, dogs, or pigs. The animal model also can be used to determine the appropriate concentration range and route of administration. Such information can then be used to determine useful doses and routes for administration in humans.

Therapeutic efficacy and toxicity, *e.g.*, ED_{50} (the dose therapeutically effective in 50% of the population) and LD_{50} (the dose lethal to 50% of the population), can be determined by standard pharmaceutical procedures in cell cultures or experimental animals. The dose ratio of toxic to therapeutic effects is the therapeutic index, and it can be expressed as the ratio, LD_{50}/ED_{50} .

Pharmaceutical compositions which exhibit large therapeutic indices are preferred. The data obtained from cell culture assays and animal studies is used in formulating a range of dosage for human use. The dosage contained in such compositions is preferably within a range of circulating concentrations that include the ED_{50} with little or no toxicity. The dosage varies within this range depending upon the dosage form employed, sensitivity of the patient, and the route of administration.

The exact dosage will be determined by the practitioner, in light of factors related to the subject that requires treatment. Dosage and administration are adjusted to provide sufficient levels of the active ingredient or to maintain the desired effect. Factors which can be taken into account include the severity of the disease state, general health of the subject, age, weight, and gender of the subject, diet, time and frequency of administration, drug combination(s), reaction sensitivities, and tolerance/response to therapy. Long-acting pharmaceutical compositions can be administered every 3 to 4 days, every week, or once every two weeks depending on the half-life and clearance rate of the particular formulation.

Normal dosage amounts can vary from 0.1 to 100,000 micrograms, up to a total dose of about 1 g, depending upon the route of administration. Guidance as to particular dosages and methods of delivery is provided in the literature and generally available to practitioners in the art. Those skilled in the art will employ different formulations for nucleotides than for proteins or their inhibitors. Similarly, delivery of polynucleotides or polypeptides will be specific to particular cells, conditions, locations, etc.

Effective *in vivo* dosages of an antibody are in the range of about 5 µg to about 50 µg /kg, about 50 µg to about 5 mg/kg, about 100 µg to about 500 µg /kg of patient body weight, and about 200 to about 250 µg /kg of patient body weight. For administration of polynucleotides encoding single-chain antibodies, effective *in vivo* dosages are in the range of about 100 ng to about 200 ng, 500 ng to about 50 mg, about 1 µg to about 2 mg, about 5 µg to about 500 µg, and about 20 µg to about 100 µg of DNA.

If the expression product is mRNA, the reagent is preferably an antisense oligonucleotide or a ribozyme. Polynucleotides which express antisense oligonucleotides or ribozymes can be introduced into cells by a variety of methods, as described above.

Preferably, a reagent reduces expression of an transmembrane serine protease polynucleotide or activity of an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide by at least about 10, preferably about 50, more preferably about 75, 90, or 100% relative to the absence of the reagent. The effectiveness of the mechanism chosen to decrease the level of expression of an transmembrane serine protease polynucleotide or the activity of an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide can be assessed using methods well known in the art, such as hybridization of nucleotide probes to transmembrane serine protease-specific mRNA, quantitative RT-PCR, immunologic

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detection of an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide, or measurement of transmembrane serine protease activity.

In any of the embodiments described above, any of the pharmaceutical compositions
5 of the invention can be administered in combination with other appropriate
therapeutic agents. Selection of the appropriate agents for use in combination
therapy can be made by one of ordinary skill in the art, according to conventional
pharmaceutical principles. The combination of therapeutic agents can act
synergistically to effect the treatment or prevention of the various disorders described
10 above. Using this approach, one may be able to achieve therapeutic efficacy with
lower dosages of each agent, thus reducing the potential for adverse side effects.

Any of the therapeutic methods described above can be applied to any subject in
need of such therapy, including, for example, mammals such as dogs, cats, cows,
15 horses, rabbits, monkeys, and most preferably, humans.

The above disclosure generally describes the present invention, and all patents and
patent applications cited in this disclosure are expressly incorporated herein. A more
complete understanding can be obtained by reference to the following specific
20 examples which are provided for purposes of illustration only and are not intended
to limit the scope of the invention.

EXAMPLE 1

Detection of transmembrane serine protease activity

The polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO: 11 is inserted into the expression vector pCEV4
5 and the expression vector pCEV4-transmembrane serine protease polypeptide
obtained is transfected into human embryonic kidney 293 cells. From these cells
cellular extracts are obtained and protease activity is measured using thiobenzylester
substrates, as described in U.S. Patent 5,500,344. For monitoring enzyme activities
from granules and column fractions, assays are performed at room temperature using
10 0.5 mM 5,5'-dithiobis-(2-nitrobenzoic acid) (DTNB) (Sigma) to detect the HSBzl
leaving group ($\epsilon_{410} = 13600 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$).

BLT-esterase activity is estimated using a microtiter assay (Green and Shaw, *Anal.*
Biochem. 93, 223-226, 1979). Briefly, 50 μl of sample is added to 100 μl of 1 mM
15 DTNB, made up in 10 mM HEPES, 1 mM CaCl_2 , 1 mM MgCl_2 , pH 7.2. The
reaction is initiated by the addition of 50 μl of BLT (Sigma) to give a final
concentration of 500 μM . For Metase determinations, 50 μl of dilutions of the
sample in 0.1 M HEPES, 0.05 M CaCl_2 , pH 7.5, are added to 100 μl of 1 mM
DTNB, and the reaction is initiated by the addition of 50 μl of Boc-Ala-Ala-Met-S
20 Benzyl (Bzl) to give a final concentration of 150 μM . The duration of the assay
depends on color development, the rate of which is measured (O.D.₄₁₀) on a
Dynatech MR 5000 microplate reader. Controls of sample and DTNB alone or
DTNB and substrate alone are run.

25 For more sensitive comparisons of enzymatic activities, peptide thiobenzyl ester
substrates are used to measure protease activities. The chymase substrate
Suc-Phe-Leu-Phe-SBzl is purchased from BACHEM Bioscience Inc., Philadelphia,
Pa. Z-Arg-SBzl (the tryptase substrate, Kam *et al.*, *J. Biol. Chem.* 262, 3444-3451,
1987); Boc-Ala-Ala-AA-SBzl (AA=Asp, Met, Leu, Nle, or Ser), and
30 Suc-Ala-Ala-Met-SBzl (Otake *et al.*, *Biochemistry* 30, 2217-2227, 1991); Harper *et*

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al., *Biochemistry* 23, 2995-3002, 1984) are synthesized previously. Boc-Ala-Ala-Asp-SBzl is the substrate for Asp-ase and peptide thiobenzyl esters containing Met, Leu or Nle are substrates for Met-ase SP. Assays are performed at room temperature in 0.1 M, HEPES buffer, pH 7.5, containing 0.01 M CaCl₂ and 8% Me₂O using 0.34 mM 4,4'-dithiodipyridine (Aldrithiol-4, Aldrich Chemical Co., Milwaukee, Wis.) to detect HSBzl leaving group that reacts with 4,4'-dithiodipyridine to release thiopyridone ($\epsilon_{324}=19800 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$, Grasetti and Murray, *Arch. Biochem. Biophys.* 119, 41-49, 1967). The initial rates are measured at 324 nm using a Beckman 35 spectrophotometer when 10-25 μl of an enzyme stock solution is added to a cuvette containing 2.0 ml of buffer, 150 μl of 4,4'-dithiodipyridine, and 25 μl of substrate. The same volume of substrate and 4,4'-dithiodipyridine are added to the reference cell in order to compensate for the background hydrolysis rate of the substrates. Initial rates are measured in duplicate for each substrate concentration and are averaged in each case. Substrate concentrations are 100-133 μM . It is shown that the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 33 has transmembrane serine protease activity.

EXAMPLE 2

Identification of a test compound which binds to an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide

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Purified transmembrane serine protease polypeptides comprising a glutathione-S-transferase protein and absorbed onto glutathione-derivatized wells of 96-well microtiter plates are contacted with test compounds from a small molecule library at pH 7.0 in a physiological buffer solution. Transmembrane serine protease polypeptides comprise an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:12. The test compounds comprise a fluorescent tag. The samples are incubated for 5 minutes to one hour. Control samples are incubated in the absence of a test compound.

The buffer solution containing the test compounds is washed from the wells. Binding of a test compound to an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide is

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detected by fluorescence measurements of the contents of the wells. A test compound which increases the fluorescence in a well by at least 15% relative to fluorescence of a well in which a test compound was not incubated is identified as a compound which binds to an transmembrane serine protease polypeptide.

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EXAMPLE 3

Identification of a test compound which decreases transmembrane serine protease activity

- 10 Cellular extracts from the human colon cancer cell line HCT116 are contacted with test compounds from a small molecule library and assayed for transmembrane serine protease activity. Control extracts, in the absence of a test compound, also are assayed. Protease activity can be measured using thiobenzylester substrates, as described in U.S. Patent 5,500,344. For monitoring enzyme activities from granules
15 and column fractions, assays are performed at room temperature using 0.5 mM 5,5'-dithiobis-(2-nitrobenzoic acid) (DTNB) (Sigma) to detect the HSBzl leaving group ($\epsilon_{410} = 13600 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$).

- BLT-esterase activity is estimated using a microtiter assay (Green and Shaw, *Anal.*
20 *Biochem.* 93, 223-226, 1979). Briefly, 50 μl of sample is added to 100 μl of 1 mM DTNB, made up in 10 mM HEPES, 1 mM CaCl_2 , 1 mM MgCl_2 , pH 7.2. The reaction is initiated by the addition of 50 μl of BLT (Sigma) to give a final concentration of 500 μM . For Metase determinations, 50 μl of dilutions of the sample in 0.1 M HEPES, 0.05 M CaCl_2 , pH 7.5, are added to 100 μl of 1 mM
25 DTNB, and the reaction is initiated by the addition of 50 μl of Boc-Ala-Ala-Met-S Benzyl (Bzl) to give a final concentration of 150 μM . The duration of the assay depends on color development, the rate of which is measured (O.D._{410}) on a Dynatech MR 5000 microplate reader. Controls of sample and DTNB alone or DTNB and substrate alone are run.

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For more sensitive comparisons of enzymatic activities, peptide thiobenzyl ester substrates are used to measure protease activities. The chymase substrate Suc-Phe-Leu-Phe-SBzl is purchased from BACHEM Bioscience Inc., Philadelphia, Pa. Z-Arg-SBzl (the tryptase substrate, Kam *et al.*, *J. Biol. Chem.* 262, 3444-3451, 1987); Boc-Ala-Ala-AA-SBzl (AA=Asp, Met, Leu, Nle, or Ser), and Suc-Ala-Ala-Met-SBzl (Odake *et al.*, *Biochemistry* 30, 2217-2227, 1991); Harper *et al.*, *Biochemistry* 23, 2995-3002, 1984) are synthesized previously. Boc-Ala-Ala-Asp-SBzl is the substrate for Asp-ase and peptide thiobenzyl esters containing Met, Leu or Nle are substrates for Met-ase SP. Assays are performed at room temperature in 0.1 M, HEPES buffer, pH 7.5, containing 0.01 M CaCl₂ and 8% Me₂O using 0.34 mM 4,4'-dithiodipyridine (Aldrithiol-4, Aldrich Chemical Co., Milwaukee, Wis.) to detect HSBzl leaving group that reacts with 4,4'-dithiodipyridine to release thiopyridone ($\epsilon_{324}=19800 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$, Grasetti and Murray, *Arch. Biochem. Biophys.* 119, 41-49, 1967). The initial rates are measured at 324 nm using a Beckman 35 spectrophotometer when 10-25 μl of an enzyme stock solution is added to a cuvette containing 2.0 ml of buffer, 150 μl of 4,4'-dithiodipyridine, and 25 μl of substrate. The same volume of substrate and 4,4'-dithiodipyridine are added to the reference cell in order to compensate for the background hydrolysis rate of the substrates. Initial rates are measured in duplicate for each substrate concentration and are averaged in each case. Substrate concentrations are 100-133 μM .

A test compound which decreases transmembrane serine protease activity of the extract relative to the control extract by at least 20% is identified as an transmembrane serine protease inhibitor.

EXAMPLE 4

Identification of a test compound which decreases transmembrane serine protease gene expression

- 5 A test compound is administered to a culture of the breast tumor cell line MDA-468 and incubated at 37 °C for 10 to 45 minutes. A culture of the same type of cells incubated for the same time without the test compound provides a negative control.

RNA is isolated from the two cultures as described in Chirgwin *et al.*, *Biochem. 18*,
10 5294-99, 1979). Northern blots are prepared using 20 to 30 µg total RNA and hybridized with a ³²P-labeled transmembrane serine protease-specific probe at 65 °C in Express-hyb (CLONTECH). The probe comprises at least 11 contiguous nucleotides selected from the complement of SEQ ID NO:11. A test compound which decreases the transmembrane serine protease -specific signal relative to the
15 signal obtained in the absence of the test compound is identified as an inhibitor of transmembrane serine protease gene expression.

EXAMPLE 5

Treatment of a breast tumor with a reagent which specifically binds to an
20 *transmembrane serine protease gene product*

Synthesis of antisense transmembrane serine protease oligonucleotides comprising at least 11 contiguous nucleotides selected from the complement of SEQ ID NO:11 is performed on a Pharmacia Gene Assembler series synthesizer using the
25 phosphoramidite procedure (Uhlmann *et al.*, *Chem. Rev. 90*, 534-83, 1990). Following assembly and deprotection, oligonucleotides are ethanol-precipitated twice, dried, and suspended in phosphate-buffered saline (PBS) at the desired concentration. Purity of these oligonucleotides is tested by capillary gel electrophoreses and ion exchange HPLC. Endotoxin levels in the oligonucleotide

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preparation are determined using the *Limulus* Amebocyte Assay (Bang, *Biol. Bull. (Woods Hole, Mass.)* 105, 361-362, 1953).

5 An aqueous composition containing the antisense oligonucleotides at a concentration of 0.1-100 μ M is injected directly into a breast tumor with a needle. The needle is placed in the tumors and withdrawn while expressing the aqueous composition within the tumor.

10 The breast tumor is monitored over a period of days or weeks. Additional injections of the antisense oligonucleotides can be given during that time. Metastasis of the breast tumor is suppressed due to decreased transmembrane serine protease activity of the breast tumor cells.

EXAMPLE 6

15 *Expression of recombinant human transmembrane serine protease*

The *Pichia pastoris* expression vector pPICZB (Invitrogen, San Diego, CA) is used to produce large quantities of recombinant human transmembrane serine protease polypeptides in yeast. The transmembrane serine protease -encoding DNA sequence
20 is derived from SEQ ID NO:11. Before insertion into vector pPICZB, the DNA sequence is modified by well known methods in such a way that it contains at its 5'-end an initiation codon and at its 3'-end an enterokinase cleavage site, a His6 reporter tag and a termination codon. Moreover, at both termini recognition sequences for restriction endonucleases are added and after digestion of the multiple
25 cloning site of pPICZ B with the corresponding restriction enzymes the modified DNA sequence is ligated into pPICZB. This expression vector is designed for inducible expression in *Pichia pastoris*, driven by a yeast promoter. The resulting pPICZ/md-His6 vector is used to transform the yeast.

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The yeast is cultivated under usual conditions in 5 liter shake flasks and the recombinantly produced protein isolated from the culture by affinity chromatography (Ni-NTA-Resin) in the presence of 8 M urea. The bound polypeptide is eluted with buffer, pH 3.5, and neutralized. Separation of the polypeptide from the His6 reporter tag is accomplished by site-specific proteolysis using enterokinase (Invitrogen, San Diego, CA) according to manufacturer's instructions. Purified human transmembrane serine protease polypeptide is obtained.

EXAMPLE 7

10 *Proliferation inhibition assay: Antisense oligonucleotides suppress the growth of cancer cell lines*

The cell line used for testing is the human colon cancer cell line HCT116. Cells are cultured in RPMI-1640 with 10-15% fetal calf serum at a concentration of 10,000 cells per milliliter in a volume of 0.5 ml and kept at 37 °C in a 95% air/5%CO₂ atmosphere.

Phosphorothioate oligoribonucleotides are synthesized on an Applied Biosystems Model 380B DNA synthesizer using phosphoroamidite chemistry. A sequence of 24 bases complementary to the nucleotides at position 1 to 24 of SEQ ID NO:11 is used as the test oligonucleotide. As a control, another (random) sequence is used: 5'-TCA ACT GAC TAG ATG TAC ATG GAC-3' (SEQ ID NO:36). Following assembly and deprotection, oligonucleotides are ethanol-precipitated twice, dried, and suspended in phosphate buffered saline at the desired concentration. Purity of the oligonucleotides is tested by capillary gel electrophoresis and ion exchange HPLC. The purified oligonucleotides are added to the culture medium at a concentration of 10 µM once per day for seven days.

The addition of the test oligonucleotide for seven days results in significantly reduced expression of human transmembrane serine protease as determined by

Western blotting. This effect is not observed with the control oligonucleotide. After 3 to 7 days, the number of cells in the cultures is counted using an automatic cell counter. The number of cells in cultures treated with the test oligonucleotide (expressed as 100%) is compared with the number of cells in cultures treated with the control oligonucleotide. The number of cells in cultures treated with the test oligonucleotide is not more than 30% of control, indicating that the inhibition of human transmembrane serine protease has an anti-proliferative effect on cancer cells.

EXAMPLE 8

10 In vivo testing of compounds/target validation

1. Acute Mechanistic Assays

1.1. Reduction in Mitogenic Plasma Hormone Levels

This non-tumor assay measures the ability of a compound to reduce either the endogenous level of a circulating hormone or the level of hormone produced in response to a biologic stimulus. Rodents are administered test compound (p.o., i.p., i.v., i.m., or s.c.). At a predetermined time after administration of test compound, blood plasma is collected. Plasma is assayed for levels of the hormone of interest. If the normal circulating levels of the hormone are too low and/or variable to provide consistent results, the level of the hormone may be elevated by a pre-treatment with a biologic stimulus (i.e., LHRH may be injected i.m. into mice at a dosage of 30 ng/mouse to induce a burst of testosterone synthesis). The timing of plasma collection would be adjusted to coincide with the peak of the induced hormone response. Compound effects are compared to a vehicle-treated control group. An F-test is preformed to determine if the variance is equal or unequal followed by a Student's t-test. Significance is p value ≤ 0.05 compared to the vehicle control group.

1.2. Hollow Fiber Mechanism of Action Assay

Hollow fibers are prepared with desired cell line(s) and implanted intraperitoneally and/or subcutaneously in rodents. Compounds are

administered p.o., i.p., i.v., i.m., or s.c. Fibers are harvested in accordance with specific readout assay protocol, these may include assays for gene expression (bDNA, PCR, or Taqman), or a specific biochemical activity (i.e., cAMP levels. Results are analyzed by Student's t-test or Rank Sum test after the variance between groups is compared by an F-test, with significance at $p \leq 0.05$ as compared to the vehicle control group.

2. Subacute Functional *In Vivo* Assays

2.1. *Reduction in Mass of Hormone Dependent Tissues*

This is another non-tumor assay that measures the ability of a compound to reduce the mass of a hormone dependent tissue (i.e., seminal vesicles in males and uteri in females). Rodents are administered test compound (p.o., i.p., i.v., i.m., or s.c.) according to a predetermined schedule and for a predetermined duration (i.e., 1 week). At termination of the study, animals are weighed, the target organ is excised, any fluid is expressed, and the weight of the organ is recorded. Blood plasma may also be collected. Plasma may be assayed for levels of a hormone of interest or for levels of test agent. Organ weights may be directly compared or they may be normalized for the body weight of the animal. Compound effects are compared to a vehicle-treated control group. An F-test is performed to determine if the variance is equal or unequal followed by a Student's t-test. Significance is p value ≤ 0.05 compared to the vehicle control group.

2.2. *Hollow Fiber Proliferation Assay*

Hollow fibers are prepared with desired cell line(s) and implanted intraperitoneally and/or subcutaneously in rodents. Compounds are administered p.o., i.p., i.v., i.m., or s.c. Fibers are harvested in accordance with specific readout assay protocol. Cell proliferation is determined by measuring a marker of cell number (i.e., MTT or LDH). The cell number and change in cell number from the starting inoculum are analyzed by Student's t-

test or Rank Sum test after the variance between groups is compared by an F-test, with significance at $p \leq 0.05$ as compared to the vehicle control group.

2.3. *Anti-angiogenesis Models*

5 2.3.1. *Corneal Angiogenesis*

Hydron pellets with or without growth factors or cells are implanted into a micropocket surgically created in the rodent cornea. Compound administration may be systemic or local (compound mixed with growth factors in the hydron pellet). Corneas are harvested at 7 days post implantation immediately following intracardiac infusion of colloidal carbon and are fixed in 10% formalin. Readout is qualitative scoring and/or image analysis. Qualitative scores are compared by Rank Sum test. Image analysis data is evaluated by measuring the area of neovascularization (in pixels) and group averages are compared by Student's t-test (2 tail). Significance is $p \leq$
15 0.05 as compared to the growth factor or cells only group.

2.3.2. *Matrigel Angiogenesis*

Matrigel, containing cells or growth factors, is injected subcutaneously. Compounds are administered p.o., i.p., i.v., i.m., or s.c. Matrigel plugs are
20 harvested at predetermined time point(s) and prepared for readout. Readout is an ELISA-based assay for hemoglobin concentration and/or histological examination (i.e. vessel count, special staining for endothelial surface markers: CD31, factor-8). Readouts are analyzed by Student's t-test, after the variance between groups is compared by an F-test, with significance
25 determined at $p \leq 0.05$ as compared to the vehicle control group.

3. *Primary Antitumor Efficacy*

3.1. *Early Therapy Models*

3.1.1. *Subcutaneous Tumor*

30 Tumor cells or fragments are implanted subcutaneously on Day 0. Vehicle and/or compounds are administered p.o., i.p., i.v., i.m., or s.c. according to a

predetermined schedule starting at a time, usually on Day 1, prior to the ability to measure the tumor burden. Body weights and tumor measurements are recorded 2-3 times weekly. Mean net body and tumor weights are calculated for each data collection day. Anti-tumor efficacy may be initially
5 determined by comparing the size of treated (T) and control (C) tumors on a given day by a Student's t-test, after the variance between groups is compared by an F-test, with significance determined at $p \leq 0.05$. The experiment may also be continued past the end of dosing in which case tumor measurements would continue to be recorded to monitor tumor growth delay. Tumor growth
10 delays are expressed as the difference in the median time for the treated and control groups to attain a predetermined size divided by the median time for the control group to attain that size. Growth delays are compared by generating Kaplan-Meier curves from the times for individual tumors to attain the evaluation size. Significance is $p \leq 0.05$.

3.1.2. *Intraperitoneal/Intracranial Tumor Models*

Tumor cells are injected intraperitoneally or intracranially on Day 0. Compounds are administered p.o., i.p., i.v., i.m., or s.c. according to a predetermined schedule starting on Day 1. Observations of morbidity and/or
20 mortality are recorded twice daily. Body weights are measured and recorded twice weekly. Morbidity/mortality data is expressed in terms of the median time of survival and the number of long-term survivors is indicated separately. Survival times are used to generate Kaplan-Meier curves. Significance is $p \leq 0.05$ by a log-rank test compared to the control group in
25 the experiment.

3.2. *Established Disease Model*

Tumor cells or fragments are implanted subcutaneously and grown to the desired size for treatment to begin. Once at the predetermined size range,
30 mice are randomized into treatment groups. Compounds are administered p.o., i.p., i.v., i.m., or s.c. according to a predetermined schedule. Tumor and

body weights are measured and recorded 2-3 times weekly. Mean tumor weights of all groups over days post inoculation are graphed for comparison. An F-test is performed to determine if the variance is equal or unequal followed by a Student's t-test to compare tumor sizes in the treated and control groups at the end of treatment. Significance is $p \leq 0.05$ as compared to the control group. Tumor measurements may be recorded after dosing has stopped to monitor tumor growth delay. Tumor growth delays are expressed as the difference in the median time for the treated and control groups to attain a predetermined size divided by the median time for the control group to attain that size. Growth delays are compared by generating Kaplan-Meier curves from the times for individual tumors to attain the evaluation size. Significance is $p \text{ value} \leq 0.05$ compared to the vehicle control group.

3.3. *Orthotopic Disease Models*

3.3.1. *Mammary Fat Pad Assay*

Tumor cells or fragments, of mammary adenocarcinoma origin, are implanted directly into a surgically exposed and reflected mammary fat pad in rodents. The fat pad is placed back in its original position and the surgical site is closed. Hormones may also be administered to the rodents to support the growth of the tumors. Compounds are administered p.o., i.p., i.v., i.m., or s.c. according to a predetermined schedule. Tumor and body weights are measured and recorded 2-3 times weekly. Mean tumor weights of all groups over days post inoculation are graphed for comparison. An F-test is performed to determine if the variance is equal or unequal followed by a Student's t-test to compare tumor sizes in the treated and control groups at the end of treatment. Significance is $p \leq 0.05$ as compared to the control group.

Tumor measurements may be recorded after dosing has stopped to monitor tumor growth delay. Tumor growth delays are expressed as the difference in the median time for the treated and control groups to attain a predetermined size divided by the median time for the control group to attain that size.

Growth delays are compared by generating Kaplan-Meier curves from the times for individual tumors to attain the evaluation size. Significance is $p \leq 0.05$ compared to the vehicle control group. In addition, this model provides an opportunity to increase the rate of spontaneous metastasis of this type of tumor. Metastasis can be assessed at termination of the study by counting the number of visible foci per target organ, or measuring the target organ weight. The means of these endpoints are compared by Student's t-test after conducting an F-test, with significance determined at $p \leq 0.05$ compared to the control group in the experiment.

3.3.2. *Intraprostatic Assay*

Tumor cells or fragments, of prostatic adenocarcinoma origin, are implanted directly into a surgically exposed dorsal lobe of the prostate in rodents. The prostate is externalized through an abdominal incision so that the tumor can be implanted specifically in the dorsal lobe while verifying that the implant does not enter the seminal vesicles. The successfully inoculated prostate is replaced in the abdomen and the incisions through abdomen and skin are closed. Hormones may also be administered to the rodents to support the growth of the tumors. Compounds are administered p.o., i.p., i.v., i.m., or s.c. according to a predetermined schedule. Body weights are measured and recorded 2-3 times weekly. At a predetermined time, the experiment is terminated and the animal is dissected. The size of the primary tumor is measured in three dimensions using either a caliper or an ocular micrometer attached to a dissecting scope. An F-test is performed to determine if the variance is equal or unequal followed by a Student's t-test to compare tumor sizes in the treated and control groups at the end of treatment. Significance is $p \leq 0.05$ as compared to the control group. This model provides an opportunity to increase the rate of spontaneous metastasis of this type of tumor. Metastasis can be assessed at termination of the study by counting the number of visible foci per target organ (i.e., the lungs), or measuring the target organ weight (i.e., the regional lymph nodes). The means of these

endpoints are compared by Student's t-test after conducting an F-test, with significance determined at $p \leq 0.05$ compared to the control group in the experiment.

5 **3.3.3. Intrabronchial Assay**

Tumor cells of pulmonary origin may be implanted intrabronchially by making an incision through the skin and exposing the trachea. The trachea is pierced with the beveled end of a 25 gauge needle and the tumor cells are inoculated into the main bronchus using a flat-ended 27 gauge needle with a
10 90° bend. Compounds are administered p.o., i.p., i.v., i.m., or s.c. according to a predetermined schedule. Body weights are measured and recorded 2-3 times weekly. At a predetermined time, the experiment is terminated and the animal is dissected. The size of the primary tumor is measured in three dimensions using either a caliper or an ocular micrometer attached to a dissecting scope.
15 An F-test is preformed to determine if the variance is equal or unequal followed by a Student's t-test to compare tumor sizes in the treated and control groups at the end of treatment. Significance is $p \leq 0.05$ as compared to the control group. This model provides an opportunity to increase the rate of spontaneous metastasis of this type of tumor. Metastasis can be assessed at
20 termination of the study by counting the number of visible foci per target organ (i.e., the contralateral lung), or measuring the target organ weight. The means of these endpoints are compared by Student's t-test after conducting an F-test, with significance determined at $p \leq 0.05$ compared to the control group in the experiment.

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3.3.4. Intracecal Assay

Tumor cells of gastrointestinal origin may be implanted intracecally by making an abdominal incision through the skin and externalizing the intestine. Tumor cells are inoculated into the cecal wall without penetrating
30 the lumen of the intestine using a 27 or 30 gauge needle. Compounds are

administered p.o., i.p., i.v., i.m., or s.c. according to a predetermined schedule. Body weights are measured and recorded 2-3 times weekly. At a predetermined time, the experiment is terminated and the animal is dissected. The size of the primary tumor is measured in three dimensions using either a caliper or an ocular micrometer attached to a dissecting scope. An F-test is preformed to determine if the variance is equal or unequal followed by a Student's t-test to compare tumor sizes in the treated and control groups at the end of treatment. Significance is $p \leq 0.05$ as compared to the control group. This model provides an opportunity to increase the rate of spontaneous metastasis of this type of tumor. Metastasis can be assessed at termination of the study by counting the number of visible foci per target organ (i.e., the liver), or measuring the target organ weight. The means of these endpoints are compared by Student's t-test after conducting an F-test, with significance determined at $p \leq 0.05$ compared to the control group in the experiment.

4. Secondary (Metastatic) Antitumor Efficacy

4.1. Spontaneous Metastasis

Tumor cells are inoculated s.c. and the tumors allowed to grow to a predetermined range for spontaneous metastasis studies to the lung or liver. These primary tumors are then excised. Compounds are administered p.o., i.p., i.v., i.m., or s.c. according to a predetermined schedule which may include the period leading up to the excision of the primary tumor to evaluate therapies directed at inhibiting the early stages of tumor metastasis. Observations of morbidity and/or mortality are recorded daily. Body weights are measured and recorded twice weekly. Potential endpoints include survival time, numbers of visible foci per target organ, or target organ weight. When survival time is used as the endpoint the other values are not determined. Survival data is used to generate Kaplan-Meier curves. Significance is $p \leq 0.05$ by a log-rank test compared to the control group in the experiment. The mean number of visible tumor foci, as determined under a dissecting microscope, and the mean target organ weights are compared by

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Student's t-test after conducting an F-test, with significance determined at $p \leq 0.05$ compared to the control group in the experiment for both of these endpoints.

5 **4.2. Forced Metastasis**

Tumor cells are injected into the tail vein, portal vein, or the left ventricle of the heart in experimental (forced) lung, liver, and bone metastasis studies, respectively. Compounds are administered p.o., i.p., i.v., i.m., or s.c. according to a predetermined schedule. Observations of morbidity and/or mortality are recorded daily. Body weights are measured and recorded twice weekly. Potential endpoints include survival time, numbers of visible foci per target organ, or target organ weight. When survival time is used as the endpoint the other values are not determined. Survival data is used to generate Kaplan-Meier curves. Significance is $p \leq 0.05$ by a log-rank test compared to the control group in the experiment. The mean number of visible tumor foci, as determined under a dissecting microscope, and the mean target organ weights are compared by Student's t-test after conducting an F-test, with significance at $p \leq 0.05$ compared to the vehicle control group in the experiment for both endpoints.

20

EXAMPLE 9

In vivo testing of compounds/target validation

1. Pain:

25 ***Acute Pain***

Acute pain is measured on a hot plate mainly in rats. Two variants of hot plate testing are used: In the classical variant animals are put on a hot surface (52 to 56 °C) and the latency time is measured until the animals show nocifensive behavior, such as stepping or foot licking. The other variant is an increasing temperature hot plate where the experimental animals are put on a surface of neutral temperature. Subsequently this surface is slowly but constantly heated until the animals begin to

30

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lick a hind paw. The temperature which is reached when hind paw licking begins is a measure for pain threshold.

Compounds are tested against a vehicle treated control group. Substance application is performed at different time points via different application routes (i.v., i.p., p.o., i.t., i.c.v., s.c., intradermal, transdermal) prior to pain testing.

Persistent Pain

Persistent pain is measured with the formalin or capsaicin test, mainly in rats. A solution of 1 to 5% formalin or 10 to 100 µg capsaicin is injected into one hind paw of the experimental animal. After formalin or capsaicin application the animals show nocifensive reactions like flinching, licking and biting of the affected paw. The number of nocifensive reactions within a time frame of up to 90 minutes is a measure for intensity of pain.

Compounds are tested against a vehicle treated control group. Substance application is performed at different time points via different application routes (i.v., i.p., p.o., i.t., i.c.v., s.c., intradermal, transdermal) prior to formalin or capsaicin administration.

Neuropathic Pain

Neuropathic pain is induced by different variants of unilateral sciatic nerve injury mainly in rats. The operation is performed under anesthesia. The first variant of sciatic nerve injury is produced by placing loosely constrictive ligatures around the common sciatic nerve. The second variant is the tight ligation of about the half of the diameter of the common sciatic nerve. In the next variant, a group of models is used in which tight ligations or transections are made of either the L5 and L6 spinal nerves, or the L₆ spinal nerve only. The fourth variant involves an axotomy of two of the three terminal branches of the sciatic nerve (tibial and common peroneal nerves) leaving the remaining sural nerve intact whereas the last variant comprises

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the axotomy of only the tibial branch leaving the sural and common nerves uninjured. Control animals are treated with a sham operation.

Postoperatively, the nerve injured animals develop a chronic mechanical allodynia, cold allodynia, as well as a thermal hyperalgesia. Mechanical allodynia is measured by means of a pressure transducer (electronic von Frey Anesthesiometer, IITC Inc.-Life Science Instruments, Woodland Hills, SA, USA; Electronic von Frey System, Somedic Sales AB, Hörby, Sweden). Thermal hyperalgesia is measured by means of a radiant heat source (Plantar Test, Ugo Basile, Comerio, Italy), or by means of a cold plate of 5 to 10 °C where the nocifensive reactions of the affected hind paw are counted as a measure of pain intensity. A further test for cold induced pain is the counting of nocifensive reactions, or duration of nocifensive responses after plantar administration of acetone to the affected hind limb. Chronic pain in general is assessed by registering the circadian rhythms in activity (Surjo and Arndt, Universität zu Köln, Cologne, Germany), and by scoring differences in gait (foot print patterns; FOOTPRINTS program, Klapdor et al., 1997. A low cost method to analyse footprint patterns. J. Neurosci. Methods 75, 49-54).

Compounds are tested against sham operated and vehicle treated control groups. Substance application is performed at different time points via different application routes (i.v., i.p., p.o., i.t., i.c.v., s.c., intradermal, transdermal) prior to pain testing.

Inflammatory Pain

Inflammatory pain is induced mainly in rats by injection of 0.75 mg carrageenan or complete Freund's adjuvant into one hind paw. The animals develop an edema with mechanical allodynia as well as thermal hyperalgesia. Mechanical allodynia is measured by means of a pressure transducer (electronic von Frey Anesthesiometer, IITC Inc.-Life Science Instruments, Woodland Hills, SA, USA). Thermal hyperalgesia is measured by means of a radiant heat source (Plantar Test, Ugo Basile, Comerio, Italy, Paw thermal stimulator, G. Ozaki, University of California, USA). For edema measurement two methods are being used. In the first method, the animals

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are sacrificed and the affected hindpaws sectioned and weighed. The second method comprises differences in paw volume by measuring water displacement in a plethysmometer (Ugo Basile, Comerio, Italy).

- 5 Compounds are tested against uninflamed as well as vehicle treated control groups. Substance application is performed at different time points via different application routes (i.v., i.p., p.o., i.t., i.c.v., s.c., intradermal, transdermal) prior to pain testing.

Diabetic Neuropathic Pain

- 10 Rats treated with a single intraperitoneal injection of 50 to 80 mg/kg streptozotocin develop a profound hyperglycemia and mechanical allodynia within 1 to 3 weeks. Mechanical allodynia is measured by means of a pressure transducer (electronic von Frey Anesthesiometer, IITC Inc.-Life Science Instruments, Woodland Hills, SA, USA).

15

Compounds are tested against diabetic and non-diabetic vehicle treated control groups. Substance application is performed at different time points via different application routes (i.v., i.p., p.o., i.t., i.c.v., s.c., intradermal, transdermal) prior to pain testing.

20

2. Parkinson's disease

6-Hydroxydopamine (6-OH-DA) Lesion

- Degeneration of the dopaminergic nigrostriatal and striatopallidal pathways is the central pathological event in Parkinson's disease. This disorder has been mimicked experimentally in rats using single/sequential unilateral stereotaxic injections of 6-OH-DA into the medium forebrain bundle (MFB).
- 25

- Male Wistar rats (Harlan Winkelmann, Germany), weighing 200±250 g at the beginning of the experiment, are used. The rats are maintained in a temperature- and humidity-controlled environment under a 12 h light/dark cycle with free access to food and water when not in experimental sessions. The following in vivo protocols
- 30

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are approved by the governmental authorities. All efforts are made to minimize animal suffering, to reduce the number of animals used, and to utilize alternatives to in vivo techniques.

- 5 Animals are administered pargyline on the day of surgery (Sigma, St. Louis, MO, USA; 50 mg/kg i.p.) in order to inhibit metabolism of 6-OHDA by monoamine oxidase and desmethylinipramine HCl (Sigma; 25 mg/kg i.p.) in order to prevent uptake of 6-OHDA by noradrenergic terminals. Thirty minutes later the rats are anesthetized with sodium pentobarbital (50 mg/kg) and placed in a stereotaxic frame.
- 10 In order to lesion the DA nigrostriatal pathway 4 μ l of 0.01% ascorbic acid-saline containing 8 μ g of 6-OHDA HBr (Sigma) are injected into the left medial fore-brain bundle at a rate of 1 μ l/min (2.4 mm anterior, 1.49 mm lateral, -2.7 mm ventral to Bregma and the skull surface). The needle is left in place an additional 5 min to allow diffusion to occur.

15

Stepping Test

- Forelimb akinesia is assessed three weeks following lesion placement using a modified stepping test protocol. In brief, the animals are held by the experimenter with one hand fixing the hindlimbs and slightly raising the hind part above the
- 20 surface. One paw is touching the table, and is then moved slowly sideways (5 s for 1 m), first in the forehand and then in the backhand direction. The number of adjusting steps is counted for both paws in the backhand and forehand direction of movement. The sequence of testing is right paw forehand and backhand adjusting stepping, followed by left paw forehand and backhand directions. The test is repeated three
- 25 times on three consecutive days, after an initial training period of three days prior to the first testing. Forehand adjusted stepping reveals no consistent differences between lesioned and healthy control animals. Analysis is therefore restricted to backhand adjusted stepping.

Balance Test

Balance adjustments following postural challenge are also measured during the stepping test sessions. The rats are held in the same position as described in the stepping test and, instead of being moved sideways, tilted by the experimenter towards the side of the paw touching the table. This maneuver results in loss of balance and the ability of the rats to regain balance by forelimb movements is scored on a scale ranging from 0 to 3. Score 0 is given for a normal forelimb placement. When the forelimb movement is delayed but recovery of postural balance detected, score 1 is given. Score 2 represents a clear, yet insufficient, forelimb reaction, as evidenced by muscle contraction, but lack of success in recovering balance, and score 3 is given for no reaction of movement. The test is repeated three times a day on each side for three consecutive days after an initial training period of three days prior to the first testing.

15 Staircase Test (Paw Reaching)

A modified version of the staircase test is used for evaluation of paw reaching behavior three weeks following primary and secondary lesion placement. Plexiglass test boxes with a central platform and a removable staircase on each side are used. The apparatus is designed such that only the paw on the same side at each staircase can be used, thus providing a measure of independent forelimb use. For each test the animals are left in the test boxes for 15 min. The double staircase is filled with 7 x 3 chow pellets (Precision food pellets, formula: P, purified rodent diet, size 45 mg; Sandown Scientific) on each side. After each test the number of pellets eaten (successfully retrieved pellets) and the number of pellets taken (touched but dropped) for each paw and the success rate (pellets eaten/pellets taken) are counted separately. After three days of food deprivation (12 g per animal per day) the animals are tested for 11 days. Full analysis is conducted only for the last five days.

MPTP treatment

30 The neurotoxin 1-methyl-4-phenyl-1,2,3,6-tetrahydro-pyridine (MPTP) causes degeneration of mesencephalic dopaminergic (DAergic) neurons in rodents,

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non-human primates, and humans and, in so doing, reproduces many of the symptoms of Parkinson's disease. MPTP leads to a marked decrease in the levels of dopamine and its metabolites, and in the number of dopaminergic terminals in the striatum as well as severe loss of the tyrosine hydroxylase (TH)-immunoreactive cell
5 bodies in the substantia nigra, pars compacta.

In order to obtain severe and long-lasting lesions, and to reduce mortality, animals receive single injections of MPTP, and are then tested for severity of lesion 7–10 days later. Successive MPTP injections are administered on days 1, 2 and 3. Animals
10 receive application of 4 mg/kg MPTP hydrochloride (Sigma) in saline once daily. All injections are intraperitoneal (i.p.) and the MPTP stock solution is frozen between injections. Animals are decapitated on day 11.

Immunohistology

15 At the completion of behavioral experiments, all animals are anaesthetized with 3 ml thiopental (1 g/40 ml i.p., Tyrol Pharma). The mice are perfused transcardially with 0.01 M PBS (pH 7.4) for 2 min, followed by 4% paraformaldehyde (Merck) in PBS for 15 min. The brains are removed and placed in 4% paraformaldehyde for 24 h at 4 °C. For dehydration they are then transferred to a 20% sucrose (Merck) solution in
20 0.1 M PBS at 4 °C until they sink. The brains are frozen in methylbutan at -20 °C for 2 min and stored at -70 °C. Using a sledge microtome (mod. 3800-Frigocut, Leica), 25 µm sections are taken from the genu of the corpus callosum (AP 1.7 mm) to the hippocampus (AP 21.8 mm) and from AP 24.16 to AP 26.72. Forty-six sections are cut and stored in assorters in 0.25 M Tris buffer (pH 7.4) for immunohistochemistry.

25

A series of sections is processed for free-floating tyrosine hydroxylase (TH) immunohistochemistry. Following three rinses in 0.1 M PBS, endogenous peroxidase activity is quenched for 10 min in 0.3% H₂O₂ ±PBS. After rinsing in PBS, sections are preincubated in 10% normal bovine serum (Sigma) for 5 min as

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blocking agent and transferred to either primary anti-rat TH rabbit antiserum (dilution 1:2000).

Following overnight incubation at room temperature, sections for TH
5 immunoreactivity are rinsed in PBS (2 x10 min) and incubated in biotinylated anti-rabbit immunoglobulin G raised in goat (dilution 1:200) (Vector) for 90 min, rinsed repeatedly and transferred to Vectastain ABC (Vector) solution for 1 h. 3,3'-Diaminobenzidine tetrahydrochloride (DAB; Sigma) in 0.1 M PBS, supplemented with 0.005% H₂O₂, serves as chromogen in the subsequent
10 visualization reaction. Sections are mounted on to gelatin-coated slides, left to dry overnight, counter-stained with hematoxylin dehydrated in ascending alcohol concentrations and cleared in butylacetate. Coverslips are mounted on entellan.

Rotarod Test

15 We use a modification of the procedure described by Rozas and Labandeira-Garcia (1997), with a CR-1 Rotamex system (Columbus Instruments, Columbus, OH) comprising an IBM-compatible personal computer, a CIO-24 data acquisition card, a control unit, and a four-lane rotarod unit. The rotarod unit consists of a rotating spindle (diameter 7.3 cm) and individual compartments for each mouse. The system
20 software allows preprogramming of session protocols with varying rotational speeds (0-80 rpm). Infrared beams are used to detect when a mouse has fallen onto the base grid beneath the rotarod. The system logs the fall as the end of the experiment for that mouse, and the total time on the rotarod, as well as the time of the fall and all the set-up parameters, are recorded. The system also allows a weak current to be passed
25 through the base grid, to aid training.

3. Dementia

The object recognition task

The object recognition task has been designed to assess the effects of experimental
30 manipulations on the cognitive performance of rodents. A rat is placed in an open field, in which two identical objects are present. The rats inspects both objects during

the first trial of the object recognition task. In a second trial, after a retention interval of for example 24 hours, one of the two objects used in the first trial, the 'familiar' object, and a novel object are placed in the open field. The inspection time at each of the objects is registered. The basic measure in the OR task is the time spent by a rat exploring the two objects in the second trial. Good retention is reflected by higher exploration times towards the novel than the 'familiar' object.

Administration of the putative cognition enhancer prior to the first trial predominantly allows assessment of the effects on acquisition, and eventually on consolidation processes. Administration of the testing compound after the first trial allows to assess the effects on consolidation processes, whereas administration before the second trial allows to measure effects on retrieval processes.

The passive avoidance task

The passive avoidance task assesses memory performance in rats and mice. The inhibitory avoidance apparatus consists of a two-compartment box with a light compartment and a dark compartment. The two compartments are separated by a guillotine door that can be operated by the experimenter. A threshold of 2 cm separates the two compartments when the guillotine door is raised. When the door is open, the illumination in the dark compartment is about 2 lux. The light intensity is about 500 lux at the center of the floor of the light compartment.

Two habituation sessions, one shock session, and a retention session are given, separated by inter-session intervals of 24 hours. In the habituation sessions and the retention session the rat is allowed to explore the apparatus for 300 sec. The rat is placed in the light compartment, facing the wall opposite to the guillotine door. After an accommodation period of 15 sec. the guillotine door is opened so that all parts of the apparatus can be visited freely. Rats normally avoid brightly lit areas and will enter the dark compartment within a few seconds.

In the shock session the guillotine door between the compartments is lowered as soon as the rat has entered the dark compartment with its four paws, and a scrambled 1 mA footshock is administered for 2 sec. The rat is removed from the apparatus and put back into its home cage. The procedure during the retention session is identical to that of the habituation sessions.

The step-through latency, that is the first latency of entering the dark compartment (in sec.) during the retention session is an index of the memory performance of the animal; the longer the latency to enter the dark compartment, the better the retention is. A testing compound in given half an hour before the shock session, together with 1 mg*kg⁻¹ scopolamine. Scopolamine impairs the memory performance during the retention session 24 hours later. If the test compound increases the enter latency compared with the scopolamine-treated controls, is is likely to possess cognition enhancing potential.

The Morris water escape task

The Morris water escape task measures spatial orientation learning in rodents. It is a test system that has extensively been used to investigate the effects of putative therapeutic on the cognitive functions of rats and mice. The performance of an animal is assessed in a circular water tank with an escape platform that is submerged about 1 cm below the surface of the water. The escape platform is not visible for an animal swimming in the water tank. Abundant extra-maze cues are provided by the furniture in the room, including desks, computer equipment, a second water tank, the presence of the experimenter, and by a radio on a shelf that is playing softly.

The animals receive four trials during five daily acquisition sessions. A trial is started by placing an animal into the pool, facing the wall of the tank. Each of four starting positions in the quadrants north, east, south, and west is used once in a series of four trials; their order is randomized. The escape platform is always in the same position. A trial is terminated as soon as the animal had climbs onto the escape platform or when 90 seconds have elapsed, whichever event occurs first. The animal is allowed

- to stay on the platform for 30 seconds. Then it is taken from the platform and the next trial is started. If an animal did not find the platform within 90 seconds it is put on the platform by the experimenter and is allowed to stay there for 30 seconds. After the fourth trial of the fifth daily session, an additional trial is given as a probe trial:
- 5 the platform is removed, and the time the animal spends in the four quadrants is measured for 30 or 60 seconds. In the probe trial, all animals start from the same start position, opposite to the quadrant where the escape platform had been positioned during acquisition.
- 10 Four different measures are taken to evaluate the performance of an animal during acquisition training: escape latency, traveled distance, distance to platform, and swimming speed. The following measures are evaluated for the probe trial: time (s) in quadrants and traveled distance (cm) in the four quadrants. The probe trial provides additional information about how well an animal learned the position of the
- 15 escape platform. If an animal spends more time and swims a longer distance in the quadrant where the platform had been positioned during the acquisition sessions than in any other quadrant, one concludes that the platform position has been learned well.

- In order to assess the effects of putative cognition enhancing compounds, rats or
- 20 mice with specific brain lesions which impair cognitive functions, or animals treated with compounds such as scopolamine or MK-801, which interfere with normal learning, or aged animals which suffer from cognitive deficits, are used.

The T-maze spontaneous alternation task

- 25 The T-maze spontaneous alternation task (TeMCAT) assesses the spatial memory performance in mice. The start arm and the two goal arms of the T-maze are provided with guillotine doors which can be operated manually by the experimenter. A mouse is put into the start arm at the beginning of training. The guillotine door is closed. In the first trial, the 'forced trial', either the left or right goal arm is blocked
- 30 by lowering the guillotine door. After the mouse has been released from the start arm, it will negotiate the maze, eventually enter the open goal arm, and return to the

- start position, where it will be confined for 5 seconds, by lowering the guillotine door. Then, the animal can choose freely between the left and right goal arm (all guillotine-doors opened) during 14 'free choice' trials. As soon as the mouse has entered one goal arm, the other one is closed. The mouse eventually returns to the start arm and is free to visit whichever goal arm it wants after having been confined to the start arm for 5 seconds. After completion of 14 free choice trials in one session, the animal is removed from the maze. During training, the animal is never handled.
- 5
- 10 The per-cent alternations out of 14 trials is calculated. This percentage and the total time needed to complete the first forced trial and the subsequent 14 free choice trials (in s) is analyzed. Cognitive deficits are usually induced by an injection of scopolamine, 30 min before the start of the training session. Scopolamine reduced the per-cent alternations to chance level, or below. A cognition enhancer, which is
- 15 always administered before the training session, will at least partially, antagonize the scopolamine-induced reduction in the spontaneous alternation rate.

EXAMPLE 10

Tissue-specific expression of transmembrane serine protease

- 20 As a first step to establishing a role for transmembrane serine protease in the pathogenesis of COPD, expression profiling of the gene was done using real-time quantitative PCR with RNA samples from human respiratory tissues and inflammatory cells relevant to COPD. The panel consisted of total RNA samples
- 25 lung (adult and fetal), trachea, freshly isolated alveolar type II cells, cultured human bronchial epithelial cells, cultured small airway epithelial cells, cultured bronchial smooth muscle cells, cultured H441 cells (Clara-like), freshly isolated neutrophils and monocytes, and cultured monocytes (macrophage-like). Expression of transmembrane serine protease also was evaluated in a range of human tissues using
- 30 total RNA panels obtained from Clontech Laboratories, UK, Ltd. The tissues were

adrenal gland, bone marrow, brain, colon, heart, kidney, liver, lung, mammary gland, pancreas, prostate, salivary gland, skeletal muscle, small intestine, spleen, stomach, testis, thymus, trachea, thyroid, and uterus.

- 5 *Real-time quantitative PCR.* Expression profiling of the target gene was performed using real-time quantitative PCR, a development of the kinetic analysis of PCR first described in Higuchi *et al.*, *BioTechnology* 10, 413-17, 1992, and Higuchi *et al.*, *BioTechnology* 11, 1026-30, 1993. The principle is that at any given cycle within the exponential phase of PCR, the amount of product is proportional to the initial
10 number of template copies.

PCR amplification is performed in the presence of an oligonucleotide probe (TaqMan probe) that is complementary to the target sequence and labeled with a fluorescent reporter dye and a quencher dye. During the extension phase of PCR, the
15 probe is cleaved by the 5'-3' endonuclease activity of Taq DNA polymerase, releasing the fluorophore from the effect of the quenching dye (Holland *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* 88, 7276-80, 1991). Because the fluorescence emission increases in direct proportion to the amount of the specific amplified product, the exponential growth phase of PCR product can be detected and used to determine the
20 initial template concentration (Heid *et al.*, *Genome Res.* 6, 986-94, 1996, and Gibson *et al.*, *Genome Res.* 6, 995-1001, 1996).

Real-time quantitative PCR was done using an ABI Prism 7700 Sequence Detector. The C_T value generated for each reaction was used to determine the initial template
25 concentration (copy number) by interpolation from a universal standard curve. The level of expression of the target gene in each sample was calculated relative to the sample with the lowest expression of the gene.

RNA extraction and cDNA preparation. Total RNA from each of the respiratory
30 tissues and inflammatory cell types listed above were isolated using Qiagen's

RNeasy system according to the manufacturer's protocol (Crawley, West Sussex, UK). The concentration of purified RNA was determined using a RiboGreen RNA quantitation kit (Molecular Probes Europe, The Netherlands). For the preparation of cDNA, 1 µg of total RNA was reverse transcribed in a final volume of 20 µl, using
5 200 U of SUPERScript™ RNase H⁻ Reverse Transcriptase (Life Technologies, Paisley, UK), 10 mM dithiothreitol, 0.5 mM of each dNTP and 5 µM random hexamers (Applied Biosystems, Warrington, Cheshire, UK) according to the manufacturer's protocol.

10 *TaqMan quantitative analysis.* Specific primers and probe were designed according to the recommendations of PE Applied Biosystems. The probe was labeled at the 5' end with FAM (6-carboxyfluorescein). Quantification PCR was performed with 5 ng of reverse transcribed RNA from each sample. Each determination is done in duplicate.

15

The assay reaction mix was as follows: 1X final TaqMan Universal PCR Master Mix (from 2X stock) (PE Applied Biosystems, CA); 900 nM forward primer; 900 nM reverse primer; 200 nM probe; 5 ng cDNA; and water to 25 µl.

20 Each of the following steps were carried out once: pre PCR, 2 minutes at 50° C, and 10 minutes at 95°C. The following steps are carried out 40 times: denaturation, 15 seconds at 95°C, annealing/extension, 1 minute at 60°C.

25 All experiments were performed using an ABI Prism 7700 Sequence Detector (PE Applied Biosystems, CA). At the end of the run, fluorescence data acquired during PCR were processed as described in the ABI Prism 7700 user's manual to achieve better background subtraction as well as signal linearity with the starting target quantity.

Tables 1 and 2 show the results of expression profiling for transmembrane serine protease using the indicated cell and tissue samples. For Table 1, the cells are defined as follows: HBEC, cultured human bronchial epithelial cells; H441, a Clara-like cell line; SAE, cultured small airway epithelial cells; SMC, cultured airway smooth muscle cells; AII, freshly isolated human alveolar type II cells; Neut, freshly isolated circulating neutrophils; Mono, freshly isolated monocytes; and CM, cultured monocytes. Other letters identify the donor. The results are shown graphically in FIGS. 2 and 3.

10 **Table 1.**

<u>Tissue</u>	<u>Relative expression</u>
Lung	2200.562359
Trachea	258.4435393
HBEC 1	513.406875
HBEC 2	780.9633981
H441	5636.839641
SMC	0
SAE	4154.786196
AII	1428.383024
Fetal lung	59.1577544
COPD Neut 1	2.529186063
COPD Neut 2	1
COPD Neut 4	8.733909349
GAP Neut	5.889527853
AEM Neut	0
AT Neut	2.529186063
KN Neut	0
SM Mono	31.93586472
DLF Mono	26.90014866
DS Mono	110.9856117
RLH CM	59.91460217
CTP CM	158.4289996

Table 2.

Tissue	Relative expression
Adrenal gland	13.45548325
Bone Marrow	18.60661194
Brain	5.186534845
Colon	43.05318645
Heart	6.118448375
HL60	1
Kidney	23.68930394
Liver	1.705502263
Lung	144.941683
Mammary gland	128.454789
Pancreas	27.59276994
Prostate	32.75814493
Salivary gland	129.273736
Skeletal Muscle	35.57961956
Sm Intest	20.08113704
Spleen	37.91423521
Stomach	13.03461776
Testis	32.34441495
Thymus	43.05318645
Thyroid	295.3447804
Uterus	86.62062241

5 EXAMPLE 11

Expression of human transmembrane serine protease in normal and cancer tissues

RNA extraction and cDNA preparation

Total RNA used for Taqman quantitative analysis were either purchased
 10 (Clontech, CA) or extracted from tissues using TRIzol reagent (Life Technologies, MD) according to a modified vendor protocol which utilizes the RNeasy protocol (Qiagen, CA). Fifty µg of each RNA were treated with DNase I using RNase free-DNase (Qiagen, CA) for use with RNeasy or QiaAmp columns.

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After elution and quantitation with Ribogreen (Molecular Probes Inc., OR) each sample was reverse transcribed using the GibcoBRL Superscript II First Strand Synthesis System for RT-PCR according to vendor protocol (Life Technologies, MD). The final concentration of RNA in the reaction mix was 50ng/ μ L. Reverse transcription was performed with 0.5ug of Oligo dT primer.

TaqMan quantitative analysis

Specific primers and probe were designed according to PE Applied Biosystems recommendations and are listed below:

forward primer: 5'-(CTGCCAGCAGCTGGGTTTC)-3' (SEQ ID NO:9)

reverse primer: 5'-(AGGCTTTCCTGGATGGTGGA)-3' (SEQ ID NO:10)

probe: 5'-(FAM) -(CAACCTCGGTTGTCCGGTGAGCACTCT) (TAMRA)-3' (SEQ ID NO:13)

where FAM = 6-carboxy-fluorescein
and TAMRA = 6-carboxy-tetramethyl-rhodamine.

The expected length of the PCR product was -111 bp.

Quantitation experiments were performed on 25 ng of reverse transcribed RNA from each sample. Each determination was done in duplicate. 18S ribosomal RNA was measured as a control using the Pre-Developed TaqMan Assay Reagents (PDAR)(PE Applied Biosystems, CA). Assay reaction mix was as follows:

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		final
	TaqMan Universal PCR Master Mix (2x)	1x
	(PE Applied Biosystems, CA)	
5	PDAR control – 18S RNA (20x)	1x
	Forward primer	300nM
	Reverse primer	300nM
	Probe	200nM
	cDNA	25ng
10	Water to 25uL	
	PCR conditions:	
	Once: 2' minutes at 50° C	
	10 minutes at 95°C	
	40cycles: 15 sec. at 95°C	
15	1 minute at 60°C	

The experiment was performed on an ABI Prism 7700 Sequence Detector (PE Applied Biosystems, CA). At the end of the run, fluorescence data acquired during PCR were processed as described in the ABI Prism 7700 user's manual. Fold change was calculated using the delta-delta CT method with normalization to the 18S values and copy number conversion was performed without normalization using the formula $C_n = 10^{(C_t - 40.007) / -3.623}$. The results are shown in FIGS. 40 and 41.

EXAMPLE 12

25 Northern Analysis

Northern analysis was done using a human 12-lane MTN purchased from Clontech (CA). The entire coding sequence of transmembrane serine protease was used as a probe and labeled with ^{32}P using the Rediprime II labelling system (Amersham Pharmacia Biotech, NJ). Hybridization and washing conditions were performed

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according to the Northern Max kit from Ambion (TX). The blot was exposed for 16 hours and the Storm 860 phosphoimager (Amersham Pharmacia Biotech, NJ) was used to visualize the Northern analysis. The results are shown in FIG. .

5 **EXAMPLE 13**

Cloning of full-length human transmembrane serine protease

The human EST sequence having accession number BE732381 (SEQ ID NO:28) was found to overlap with the 5' end of the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:35.

10 BE732381 was used to search the public databases for overlapping EST and genomic sequences. No human ESTs or genomic sequences were found to extend the 5' end of that sequence. However, 5 overlapping mouse EST sequences were identified that were 80-90% identical to the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:35 at the nucleotide level. The accession numbers for these EST sequences are: BE285038 (SEQ ID

15 NO:27), BE289529 (SEQ ID NO:28), BE290038 (SEQ ID NO 29), BE309103 (SEQ ID NO:30), and BE286322 SEQ ID NO:31). Four of the mouse EST sequences overlapped with the 5' end of SEQ ID NO:35 and significantly extended the sequence. Translation of these ESTs revealed a putative transmembrane domain, indicating that this protein is a transmembrane serine protease.

20

One of the mouse ESTs, BE289529, was then selected to search the human genomic and EST databases. No significantly overlapping human EST sequences were identified. However, BE289529 aligned with a human genomic entry, AP000757. AP000757 is an unordered genomic entry for human chromosome 11. The

25 AP000757 exon significantly extended the predicted sequence of human transmembrane protease but did not appear to encode an appropriate translational start codon. The AP000757 exon was then used to search the public databases for overlapping EST sequences.

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A single human EST, BE280394 (SEQ ID NO:34), was identified that further extended the sequence at the 5' end. BE280394 was found to contain an in-frame translational start codon. This putative start codon and its flanking sequences resemble the Kozak consensus translational start sequence, suggesting that this is the translational start site for the transmembrane serine protease protein. Oligonucleotide primers flanking the predicted coding sequence were then designed to confirm that the predicted full length sequence was expressed.

PCR products of the appropriate size were identified in cDNA pools generated from placenta and spleen poly A+ RNA (Clontech), confirming expression of the predicted full length cDNA. The PCR products were cloned into the pCRII vector (Invitrogen) and sequenced. The nucleotide and amino acid sequences are shown in SEQ ID NOS:11 and 12, respectively.

One of the clones isolated was a putative splice variant that lacked a region that encodes the putative transmembrane domain.

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5
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15
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- 95 -

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CLAIMS

1. An isolated polynucleotide encoding a transmembrane serine protease polypeptide and being selected from the group consisting of:
 - a) a polynucleotide encoding a transmembrane serine protease polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

amino acid sequences which are at least about 50% identical to the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 12;
the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 12;
a polynucleotide comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 11;
 - b) a polynucleotide which hybridizes under stringent conditions to a polynucleotide specified in (a) and (b);
 - c) a polynucleotide the sequence of which deviates from the polynucleotide sequences specified in (a) to (c) due to the degeneration of the genetic code; and
 - d) a polynucleotide which represents a fragment, derivative or allelic variation of a polynucleotide sequence specified in (a) to (d).
2. An expression vector containing any polynucleotide of claim 1.
3. A host cell containing the expression vector of claim 2.
4. A substantially purified transmembrane serine protease polypeptide encoded by a polynucleotide of claim 1.
5. A method for producing a transmembrane serine protease polypeptide, wherein the method comprises the following steps:

- 97 -

- a) culturing the host cell of claim 3 under conditions suitable for the expression of the transmembrane serine protease polypeptide; and
- b) recovering the transmembrane serine protease polypeptide from the host cell culture.

5

6. A method for detection of a polynucleotide encoding a transmembrane serine protease polypeptide in a biological sample comprising the following steps:

- a) hybridizing any polynucleotide of claim 1 to a nucleic acid material of a biological sample, thereby forming a hybridization complex; and
- b) detecting said hybridization complex.

10

7. The method of claim 6, wherein before hybridization, the nucleic acid material of the biological sample is amplified.

15

8. A method for the detection of a polynucleotide of claim 1 or a transmembrane serine protease polypeptide of claim 4 comprising the steps of:
contacting a biological sample with a reagent which specifically interacts with the polynucleotide or the transmembrane serine protease polypeptide.

20

9. A diagnostic kit for conducting the method of any one of claims 6 to 8.

10. A method of screening for agents which decrease the activity of a transmembrane serine protease, comprising the steps of:

- contacting a test compound with any transmembrane serine protease polypeptide encoded by any polynucleotide of claim 1;
- detecting binding of the test compound to the transmembrane serine protease polypeptide, wherein a test compound which binds to the polypeptide is identified as a potential therapeutic agent for decreasing the activity of a transmembrane serine protease.

25

30

- 98 -

11. A method of screening for agents which regulate the activity of a transmembrane serine protease, comprising the steps of:
contacting a test compound with a transmembrane serine protease polypeptide encoded by any polynucleotide of claim 1; and
5 detecting a transmembrane serine protease activity of the polypeptide, wherein a test compound which increases the transmembrane serine protease activity is identified as a potential therapeutic agent for increasing the activity of the transmembrane serine protease, and wherein a test compound which decreases the transmembrane serine protease activity of the polypeptide is
10 identified as a potential therapeutic agent for decreasing the activity of the transmembrane serine protease.
12. A method of screening for agents which decrease the activity of a transmembrane serine protease, comprising the steps of:
15 contacting a test compound with any polynucleotide of claim 1 and detecting binding of the test compound to the polynucleotide, wherein a test compound which binds to the polynucleotide is identified as a potential therapeutic agent for decreasing the activity of transmembrane serine protease.
- 20 13. A method of reducing the activity of transmembrane serine protease, comprising the steps of:
contacting a cell with a reagent which specifically binds to any polynucleotide of claim 1 or any transmembrane serine protease polypeptide of claim 4, whereby the activity of transmembrane serine protease is reduced.
25
14. A reagent that modulates the activity of a transmembrane serine protease polypeptide or a polynucleotide wherein said reagent is identified by the method of any of the claim 10 to 12.

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15. A pharmaceutical composition, comprising:
the expression vector of claim 2 or the reagent of claim 14 and a
pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
- 5 16. Use of the pharmaceutical composition of claim 15 for modulating the
activity of a transmembrane serine protease in a disease.
17. Use of claim 16 wherein the disease is COPD, metastasis of malignant cells,
tumor angiogenesis, inflammation, atherosclerosis, a neurodegenerative
10 disease or a pathogenic infection.

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FIG. 1

BLASTP - query = 147_TR1; Hit = swiss|015393|TMS2_HUMAN

This hit is scoring at : 3e-66 (expectation value)

Alignment length (overlap) : 370

Identities : 38 %

Scoring matrix : BLOSUM62 (used to infer consensus pattern)

Database searched : nrdb

```

Q: 36 CDGVVDCCLKSDELGCVRFFDWDKSLKLYSGSSHQWLPICSSNWNDSYSEKTCQQLGFE
    CDGV : C : DE CVR. : L : YS : : W P : C : : WN : : Y : : C : : G : :
H: 133 CDGVSHCPGGEDENRCLYGPNFILQMYSSQRKSWHPVCQDDWNNENYGRAACRDMGYKN
    AHRTEVAHRDFANFSILRYNST IQESLHRSE CPSQRYISLQCSHCGLRA
    : : : D : S S : : N : : I : : L : S : C S : : SL : C CG : :
    NFYSSQGI VDD SGSTSFMKLNTSAGNVDIYKKLYHSDACSSKAVVSLRCLACGVNLNSS
    MTGRIVGGALASDSKWPQVSLHFGTTHICGGTLIDAQWVLTAAHCFVTRKVLG---
    : RIVGG A : WPWQVSLH. : H : CGG : I : : W : : TAAHC. EK L. :
    RQSRIVGGESALPGAWPWQVSLHVQNVHVCGSIITPEWVTAACHV EKPLNNPWH
    TRYP SIN HIS
    WKVYAGTSNLHQLPEAAS--IAEIIINSNYTDEDDYDIALMRLSKETLSGEGICTP
    W : : AG : : A : : : I : : NY : : : : DIALM : L : KPLT : : : C : P
    WTAFAGILRQSFMYGAGYQVQKVISHPNYDSKTKNNDIALMKLQKPLTFNDLVKPVCLP
    RSPAPQPQHPLOPSHLSASVNSYPGPKAADKTSPEFLREVQVNLIDFKKNDYLVYDSYL
    : P LQP : L : : : G : : : : KTS : L : : : V LI : : : CN : VYD : :
    N PGMMLOPEQL-CWISGWGATEKGTSEVLNAAKVLLIETQRCNSRYVYDNLII
    TPRMMCAGDLRGGRDSCQGDGSGGPLYVCEQNNRWYLAGVTSWGTGCGQRNKPGVYTKVTEV
    TP.M:CAG L:G. DSCQGDGSGGPLV..NN W:L:G TSWG:GC.: : PGVY .V.
    TPAMICAGFLQGNVDSCQGDGSGGPLVTSNNNIWLLIGDTSWGSGCCAKAYRPGVYGNVMVF
    TRYP SIN SER
    LPWIYSKMEA 389
    ..WIY.:M:A
    TDWIYRQMK 490

```

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FIG. 2

Prositate search results		
PS00134	187->193 TRYPSIN_HIS	PDOC00124
PS00135	334->346 TRYPSIN_SER	PDOC00124

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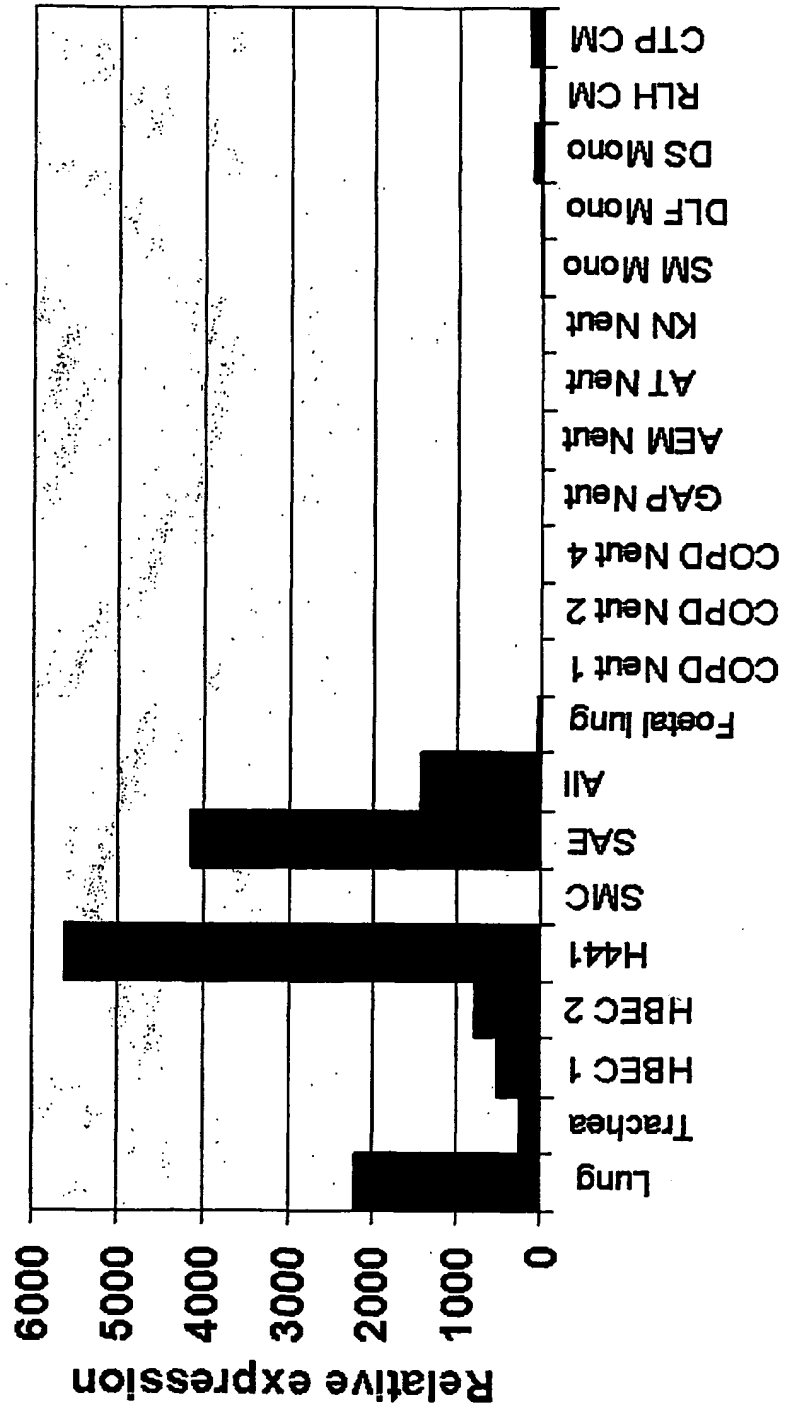
FIG. 3

BLOCKS search results			Strength Score	
AC#	Description			
BL00495N AA#	Apple domain proteins. 325 AGdlrGGrDscQGDsgPLVCeqNnRWyLaGvTSW (SEQ ID NO:15)		1945	1582
BL01253G AA#	Type I fibronectin domain proteins. 332 rDsCQGDsgGPLVC (SEQ ID NO:16)		1641	1548
BL00134A AA#	Serine proteases, trypsin family, histidine p (SEQ ID NO:17)		1500	1524
BL00021D AA#	Kringles domain proteins. 341 GPLVCEQNNRWYLaGVTSWgtGCGQRNKPgVYTKVteVLPWI (SEQ ID NO:18)		1556	1510
BL01253H AA#	Type I fibronectin domain proteins. 351 WYLaGvtSWgtGCGQRNKPgVYTKVteVLPWIysk (SEQ ID NO:19)		1765	1508
BL00021B AA#	Kringles domain proteins. 175 CGGTlIdaQWVLTAHCF (SEQ ID NO:20)		1547	1507
BL00495O AA#	Apple domain proteins. 360 GtGCGQRnkpGVYTKVteVlpWIyskmea (SEQ ID NO:21)		1756	1383
BL00134B AA#	Serine proteases, trypsin family, histidine p (SEQ ID NO:22)		1289	1299
BL01209 AA#	LDL-receptor class A (LDLRA) domain proteins. 35 CDGVVDCKlKSDE (SEQ ID NO:23)		1413	1274
BL01253F AA#	Type I fibronectin domain proteins. 288 AdktSpFLREvQVnLIdfkKCndyLVYdSYlTPrMmCAG (SEQ ID NO:24)		1693	1270
BL00495L AA#	Apple domain proteins. 209 tSnlhqlpeaaSlaEIIInsNYtdeEddyDIALmrLskp (SEQ ID NO:25)		1947	1263
BL00134C AA#	Serine proteases, trypsin family, histidine p (SEQ ID NO:26)		1245	1254
BL01253D AA#	Type I fibronectin domain proteins. 175 CGGTlIdaQWVLTA (SEQ ID NO:27)		1398	1217

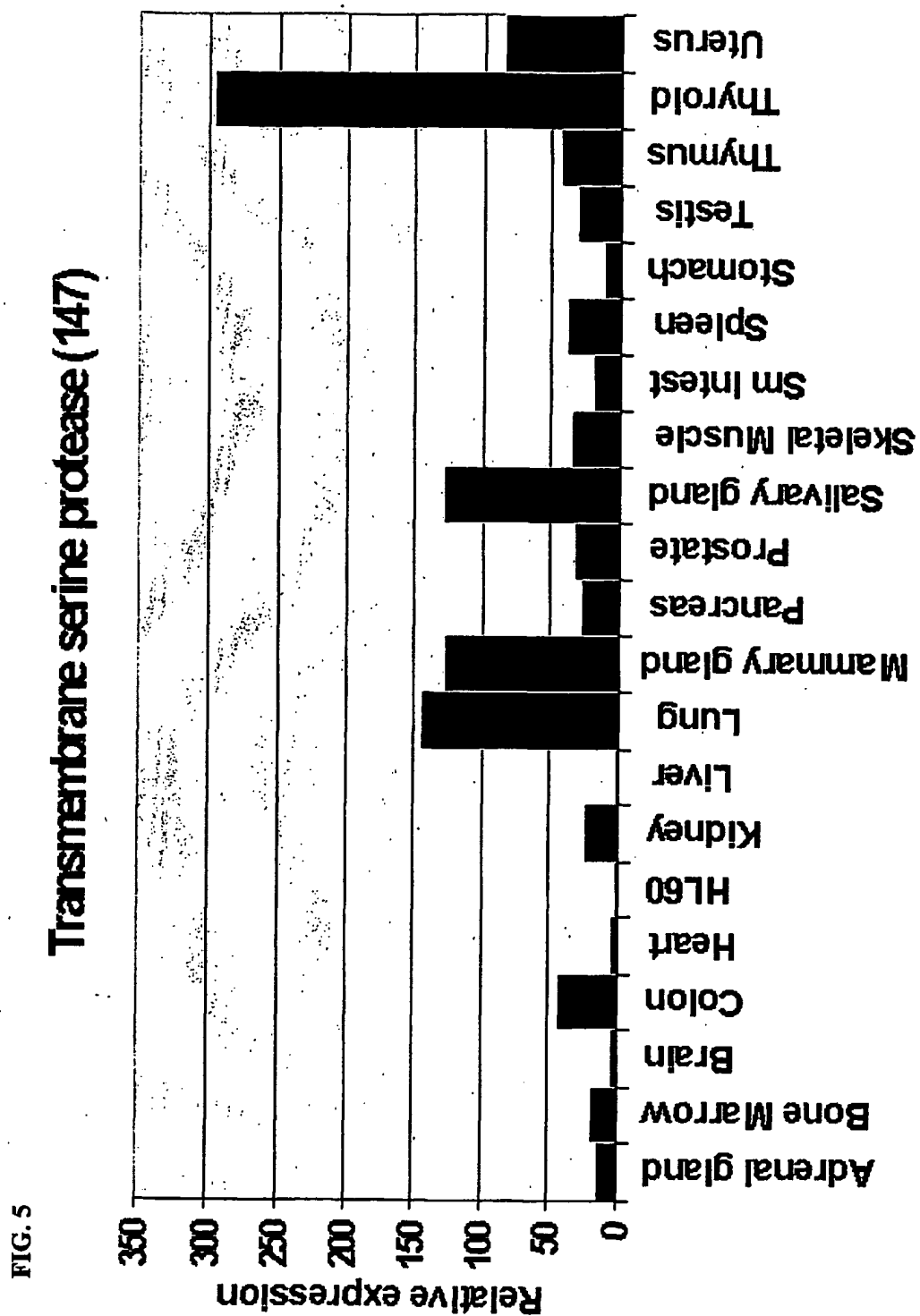
- 4/8 -

Transmembrane serine protease (147)

FIG. 4



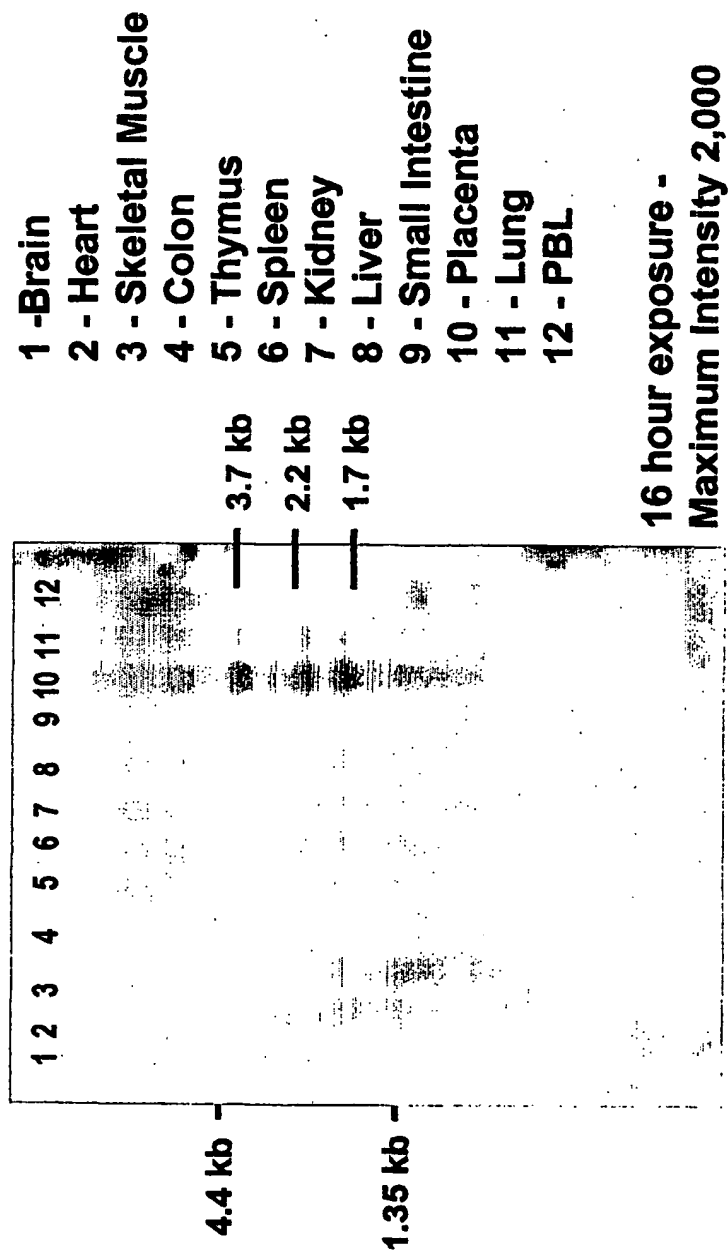
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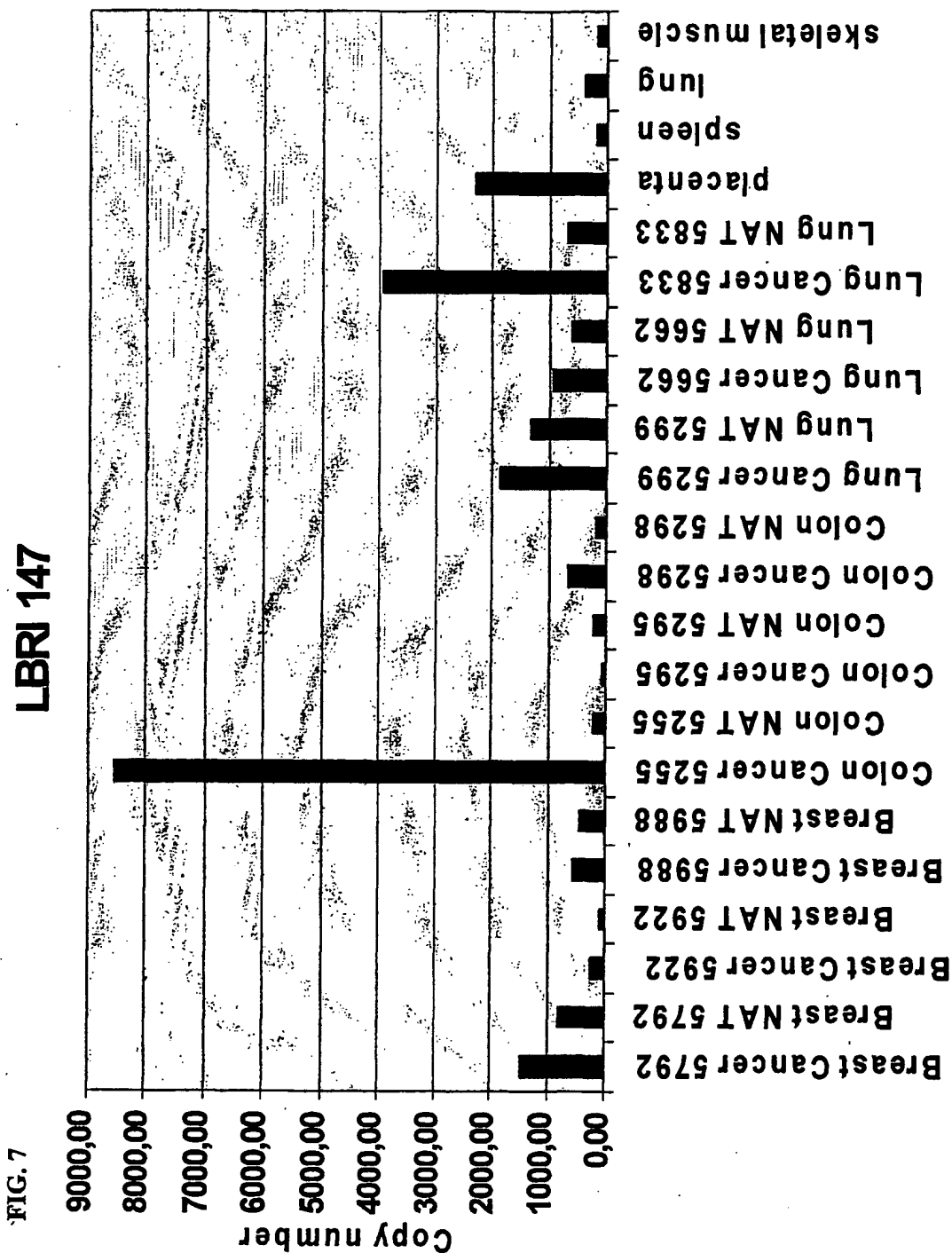
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FIG. 6

LBRI - 147 - Transmembrane serine protease

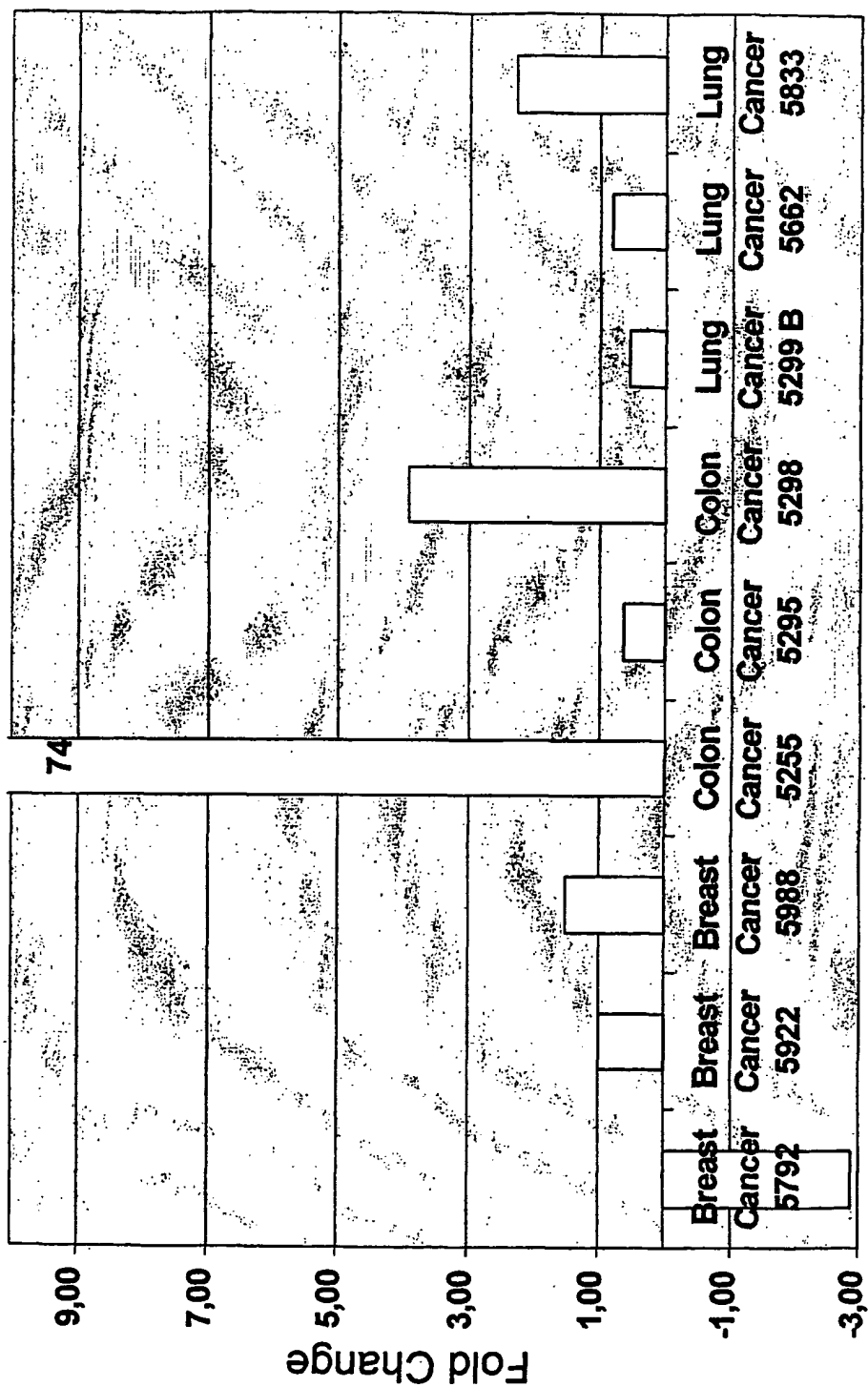


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FIG. 8
LBRI 147: Fold Change



SEQUENCE LISTING

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Gedrich, Richard

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 20          25          30
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 35          40          45
Thr Pro Pro Gly Arg Ala Ser Pro Ala Gln Ala Ser Pro Ala Gly Thr
 50          55          60
Pro Pro Gly Arg Ala Ser Pro Gly Arg Ala Ser Pro Ala Gln Ala Ser
 65          70          75          80
Pro Ala Arg Ala Ser Pro Ala Leu Ala Ser Leu Ser Arg Ser Ser Ser
 85          90          95
Gly Arg Ser Ser Ser Ala Arg Ser Ala Ser Val Thr Thr Ser Pro Thr
 100         105         110
Arg Val Tyr Leu Val Arg Ala Thr Pro Val Gly Ala Val Pro Ile Arg
 115         120         125
Ser Ser Pro Ala Arg Ser Ala Pro Ala Thr Arg Ala Thr Arg Glu Ser
 130         135         140
Pro Gly Thr Ser Leu Pro Lys Phe Thr Trp Arg Glu Gly Gln Lys Gln
 145         150         155         160
Leu Pro Leu Ile Gly Cys Val Leu Leu Leu Ile Ala Leu Val Val Ser
 165         170         175
Leu Ile Ile Leu Phe Gln Phe Trp Gln Gly His Thr Gly Ile Arg Tyr
 180         185         190
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Thr Ile Gln Glu Ser Leu His Arg Ser Glu Cys Pro Ser Gln Arg Tyr

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International Bureau



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(74) Common Representative: BAYER AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT; 51368 Leverkusen (DE).

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(54) Title: REGULATION OF HUMAN TRANSMEMBRANE SERINE PROTEASE

(57) Abstract: Reagents which regulate human transmembrane serine protease activity and reagents which bind to human transmembrane serine protease gene products can be used to regulate extracellular matrix degradation. Such regulation is particularly useful for treating COPD, metastasis of malignant cells, tumor angiogenesis, inflammation, atherosclerosis, neurodegenerative diseases, and pathogenic infections.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 C12N15/57 C12N9/64 C12N5/10 C12Q1/68 A61K38/48
G01N33/573

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 C12N C12Q A61K G01N

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EMBL, EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ, BIOSIS, MEDLINE

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	DATABASE EM_EST 'Online! EMBL; ID HS581145, AC R78581, 10 June 1995 (1995-06-10) HILLIER L ET AL.: "y173c10.r1 Soares placenta Nb2HP Homo sapiens cDNA clone IMAGE:144882 3' similar to SP:HEPS_RAT Q05511 SERINE PROTEASE HEPsin ;contains MER22 repetitive element ; , mRNA sequence." XP002192578	1-5
Y	Note: 98.1% nt seq identity with SEQ ID NO:11 in 376 nt overlap (1-376:903-1276) the whole document --- -/--	6-12

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

15 March 2002

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04/04/2002

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van de Kamp, M

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Int. Application No

PCT/EP 01/06618

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	<p>TANIMOTO H ET AL.: "Hepsin, a cell surface serine protease identified in hepatoma cells, is overexpressed in ovarian cancer"</p> <p>CANCER RESEARCH, vol. 57, no. 14, 15 July 1997 (1997-07-15), pages 2884-2887, XP000867297 ISSN: 0008-5472 abstract page 2884, left-hand column, line 1 -right-hand column, line 39 page 2886, right-hand column, line 11 -page 2887, left-hand column, line 34</p>	6-12
X	<p>DATABASE EM_HUM 'Online! EMBL; ID AP000757, AC AP000757, 27 November 1999 (1999-11-27) HATTORI M ET AL.: "Homo sapiens genomic DNA, chromosome 11q clone:RP11-728F11, complete sequences" XP002192579 cited in the application Note: 90.7% nt seq identity with SEQ ID NO:11 in 216 nt overlap (153009-153224:1303-1095), 84.5% nt seq identity with SEQ ID NO:11 in 458 nt overlap (162795-163249:491-36) page 38 page 40</p>	1
A	<p>WO 99 64608 A (SCHERING AG ;MORSER MICHAEL JOHN (US); WU QINGYU (US); YAN WEI (US) 16 December 1999 (1999-12-16) the whole document</p>	6-12
A	<p>WO 99 62942 A (SAFFRAN DOUGLAS C ;AFAR DANIEL E (US); HUBERT RENE S (US); LEONG K) 9 December 1999 (1999-12-09) Note: 100.0% aa seq identity of 20P1F12 with SEQ ID NO:12 in 12 aa overlap (435-446:500-511) the whole document</p>	6-12
A	<p>WO 00 00605 A (MYRIAD GENETICS INC) 6 January 2000 (2000-01-06) the whole document page 34, line 14 -page 41, line 19 claims 1-21,27-29,31-54</p>	6-12

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II INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	PAOLONI-GIACOBINO A ET AL.: "Cloning of the TMPRSS2 gene, which encodes a novel serine protease with transmembrane, LDLRA, and SRCR domains and maps to 21q22.3" GENOMICS, vol. 44, no. 3, 15 September 1997 (1997-09-15), pages 309-320, XP000856785 ISSN: 0888-7543 the whole document	1-12
P,X	WO 01 36604 A (ONG EDGAR O ;CORVAS INT INC (US); MADISON EDWIN L (US)) 25 May 2001 (2001-05-25) Note: 99.9% nt seq identity of SEQ ID NO:3 with SEQ ID NO:11 in 1689 nt overlap (1-1689:11-1699), 99.8% aa seq identity of SEQ ID NO:4 with SEQ ID NO:12 in 562 aa overlap (1-562:1-562) the whole document page 35, line 29 -page 37, line 3 examples 2,3	1-12
P,X	WO 01 36645 A (BURGESS CATHERINE ;QUINN KERRY E (US); RASTELLI LUCA (US); VERNET) 25 May 2001 (2001-05-25) Note: 99.9% nt seq identity of SEQ ID NO:14 with SEQ ID NO:11 in 1306 nt overlap (1-1306:434-1739), 99.8% aa seq identity of SEQ ID NO:15 with SEQ ID NO:12 in 420 aa overlap (2-421:143-562) page 1, line 7 -page 3, line 27 page 32, line 29 -page 38, line 7 page 26, line 1 -page 27, line 30 claims 1-43	1-12
P,X	KIM D R ET AL.: "Cloning and expression of novel mosaic serine proteases with and without a transmembrane domain from human lung" BIOCHIMICA ET BIOPHYSICA ACTA. GENE STRUCTURE AND EXPRESSION, vol. 1518, no. 1-2, 19 March 2001 (2001-03-19), pages 204-209, XP004275877 ISSN: 0167-4781 Note: 98.9% nt seq identity of MSPL mRNA with SEQ ID NO:11 in 1710 nt overlap (78-1786:1-1708), 99.3% aa seq identity of MSPL with SEQ ID NO:12 in 554 aa overlap (1-554:1-554). the whole document	1

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
T	<p>HOOPER J D ET AL.: "Type II transmembrane serine proteases"</p> <p>JOURNAL OF BIOLOGICAL CHEMISTRY,</p> <p>vol. 276, no. 2,</p> <p>12 January 2001 (2001-01-12), pages</p> <p>857-860, XP002192577</p> <p>the whole document</p> <p>-----</p>	

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/SA/ 210

Continuation of Box I.2

Claims Nos.: 13,14

Present claims 13-17 relate or partially relate to a reagent defined by reference to a desirable characteristic or property, namely binding to a polynucleotide according to claim 1 or to a transmembrane serine protease polypeptide according to claim 4 thereby regulating or decreasing the activity of said serine protease. The claims cover all reagents having this characteristic or property, whereas the application does not provide support within the meaning of Article 6 PCT and/or disclosure within the meaning of Article 5 PCT for such reagents. In the present case, the claims so lack support, and the application so lacks disclosure, that a meaningful search over the whole of the claimed scope related to said reagents is impossible. Independent of the above reasoning, the claims also lack clarity (Article 6 PCT). An attempt is made to define the reagent by reference to a result to be achieved. Again, this lack of clarity in the present case is such as to render a meaningful search over the whole of the claimed scope related to said reagents impossible. Consequently, no search has been carried out for claims 13 and 14, whereas the search for claims 15-17 has been restricted to a pharmaceutical composition comprising an expression vector according to claim 2 and a pharmaceutical carrier and uses thereof.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims, or parts of claims, relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure.

II INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

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Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 9964608	A	16-12-1999	AU 4507799 A	30-12-1999
			WO 9964608 A1	16-12-1999
			EP 1084259 A1	21-03-2001
			HU 0102811 A2	28-12-2001
			NO 20006159 A	05-02-2001
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			EP 1082341 A2	14-03-2001
			WO 9962942 A2	09-12-1999
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			WO 0000605 A1	06-01-2000
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			WO 0136645 A2	25-05-2001